Mumia Update: An Innocent Man on Death Row (see page 3)

COMMEMORATOR

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Local Events Commemorate Li'l Bobby Hutton

Black Panther Stalwart "Big Man" Featured / Literacy Campaign Expands

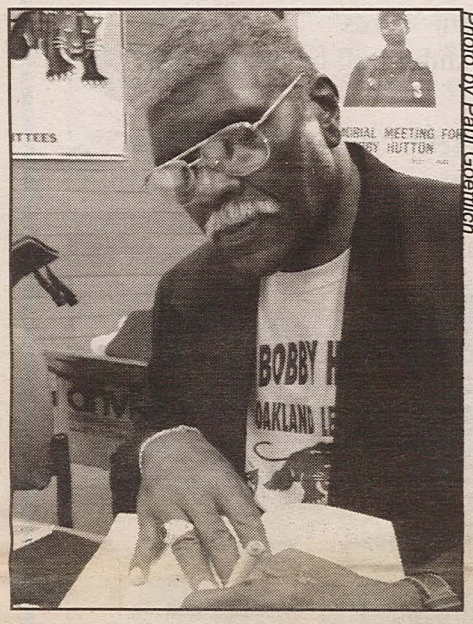

Photo by Paul Goettlich

Keynote speaker Elbert "Big Man" Howard autographs copies of his new book, **Panther On the Prowl.**

by Commemorator Staff

Li'l Bobby Hutton's short life is still an inspiration to many — those who are just learning about him and what the original Black Panther Party Survival Program was about, and those who have taken responsibility for carrying on the fight since those years, teaching what we must do to achieve the just society which Hutton died fighting for at the young age of 17. That history, and the skills needed to win this ongoing battle, are being taught today through the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, run by the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP). Li'l Bobby's legacy was explained and honored at two recent community events in the Oakland, keeping the struggle alive. Among other gains at these events, more people heard about and signed up to volunteer with the L'il Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.

Elbert "Big Man" Howard, one of the original members of the Black Panther Party, who served as Deputy Minister of Information, as a member of the International Solidarity Committee and as founding editor of the Party's newspaper, the Black Panther Party Community News Service, was the keynote speaker at the April 16 Li'l Bobby Hutton Day Celebration sponsored by "It's About Time" at West Oakland's Bobby Hutton Park.

This annual celebration of the life and heroism of Li'l Bobby Hutton, murdered by Oakland Police just short of his 18th birthday, is a time when former BPP members, supporters,

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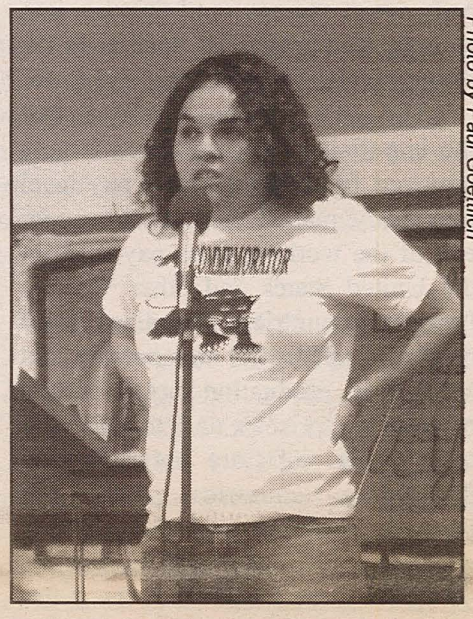

Photo by Paul Goettlich

Stephanie Leroux, coordinator of the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign explains the tutor training program.

Longshoremen Refuse to Load Cargo Demand US End Multi-Billion Dollar Occupation

March 19, San Francisco — Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 of San Francisco led a labor action on Thursday March 19, 2005, shutting down the ports of San Francisco and Oakland by refusing to load any cargo as a demand for an end to the occupation of Iraq.

During the ILWU demonstration, no cargo moved. According to Trent Willis, President of ILWU local 10, "Our International Union voted at the 2003 convention to oppose the [U.S. war on Iraq] and occupation on the motion of Local 142 of Hawaii, in keeping with our union's ten guiding principles and the ILWU's tradition, which includes opposing wars like those in Korea, Vietnam and now the Iraq war. Local 10 was one of the first unions to come out against the war in 2002."

Through the course of the day-long event, volunteers of Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party with clipboards, sign-up sheets and copies of *The Commemorator* spoke with hundreds of individuals about how they can participate in an independent year-round organizing effort to build a means for the poor and oppressed through programs to teach our young and old how to read and write through our Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign and to help us publish our newspaper to tell our story. "We know that if we are going to change the situation in this country which allows the government to send poor people to war to kill other poor people so that international monopoly capital can make super profits, it is going to take organizing every day,

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Courtesy of SF INDY media

On March 19, San Francisco's ILWU Local 10 Drill team led a labor contingent opposing the war in Iraq. ILWU has legacy of fighting for international labor solidarity and against U.S. imperialism.

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Editorial

A CONSCIOUS BREAK
From a Non-Winning Approach

Since the late nineteenth century, starting with the war against Spain, both in the Philippines and in Cuba, the United States government has been on a non-stop mission practicing imperialistic domination against smaller countries for the naked interest of the wealthy class, exploiting the labor of the poor and working class. This has been against African, Asian and Latin American peoples and, generally, against the poor of all countries. The corporate ruling class has historically made out like bandits with their divide-and-control strategy until they ran into an organized proletariat, such as in the former Soviet Union, China, and Cuba.

The main difference today is that the imperialist bribe has been largely removed from those whose pay level previously placed them at the upper end of the working class pay scale in the United States and other Western European countries. Organized labor continues to lose its membership and strength as production moves abroad or into the prisons and traditionally white collar jobs are outsourced to developing countries. The gap between the rich and the poor is widening; 400 Americans own more than 50% more wealth than the entire rest of the world's population. The "white skin privilege" of the so-called "middle class" in the United States is a temporary privilege not primarily relating to race, and is being removed at an accelerated pace.

From the 1950's to the 1970's, many people of color and other low-income people had the ability to temporarily buy in to the "middle class" with better paying jobs or the ability to maintain small businesses. In reality, these self-described "middle class" people were still members of the working class. The difference was that then the U.S. was king of the world and was doling out goodies to the working class of the United States – many of the white and non-white enjoying the temporary bribe.

With the advent of globalization, a political and economic strategy to benefit the international capitalist class starting in the 1970's, this privilege granted to workers in the United States has been steadily eroded by the inexorable profit motive that pits wages and benefits in the United States against the wages and benefits in the lowest paid developing nations on earth. Some people of color have been allowed to "make it," but the majority of people in this country are in grave danger of not surviving. We have a Colin Powell. We have a Condolezza Rice. We have an Oprah Winfrey. They do not represent the working class, no matter what their color.

The so-called middle classes of today are rapidly transforming and joining the ranks of the unemployed, the working poor, the underemployed and the unrecognized worker.

The Organizer and Activist must be aware of this new development and its ramifications, pro and con. The void of weak and visionless leadership must be filled with strong leadership with vision; leadership through organization that can pick up the pieces and move forward with the goal to eliminate war, poverty and genocide in the world.

Today the world communities are looking for ways to unite human values to the politics of survival for all people because the world produces more than enough to take care its people. But the problem seems to be that, as long as the capitalist class system exists, society will continue wars of aggression as one of the hallmarks of divide-and-control politics. And that, of course, is the main contradiction. A contradiction that cannot be resolved without revolutionary change, i.e., a change in the power relationship of classes, whereby the majority of people can assume responsibility over their lives by eliminating poverty through offering everyone the opportunity to earn a living wage.

We are going to have to deal with many contradictions in the long run, but this main contradiction, this class contradiction, we have to place at the top and recognize the urgency of the situation. The urgency of the situation brings our attention to the fact that our working-class communities are under attack by the vicious policies of a government that wages a $300 billion war at the expense of American children, seniors, and immigrants. Companies like Wal-Mart are allowed to practice slave-labor and anti-union practices, while denying medical benefits and coaching their employees to apply for public health, keeping their profits high. And yet, Wal-Mart prices are the only ones working people in the US can afford.

We need to look at the political lessons of the failures and successes of the 60s and 70s. Today, we are up against the same monopolistic capitalist force, but at a different level. They were not defeated then, and we didn't win then, either. Therefore, we need to pursue a different fight that calls for a different method and strategy to reach the lofty political goals of the 60s and 70s. We face this challenge: Everybody who is currently in the same boat must work together, through a plan and a method that we can measure each day, what we gained, what we did not gain and why; what we will go back and gain, and how. Otherwise, we allow fascism to chew us up and keep us apart.

But it requires people to make the commitment. There really ARE only two sides. You ARE part of the problem if you are not part of the solution. It is a lifelong fight. Going to politically themed concerts while

Continued on page 8

Seattle Black Panther Party
Alumni Members Reunion
(The first Chapter of the BPP outside of California)

"Why the Legacy of the Seattle Black Panthers Party is Important"

May 14th, 2005
12:00 noon - until

Location: Garfield Community Center, Seattle.
The Community is welcome

The "Louder than Words"
Black Panther Party Photo Exhibit will be on exhibit.

There will be speakers, video showings, workshops.

Poetry and Essay contest will be hosted
at four high schools in the Seattle area.

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Opinion

Mumia Update: An Innocent Man on Death Row

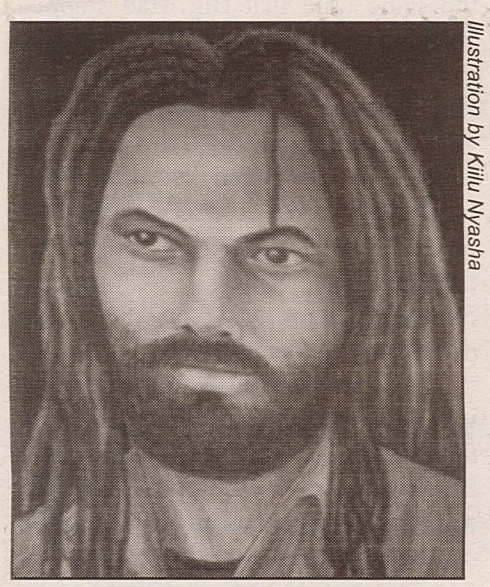

Illustration by Kiilu Nyasha

Mumia Abu-Jamal, targeted by US government.

By Jeff Mackler

Last summer's National Convention of the NAACP, the nation's largest civil rights organization, voted to engage its chapters across the country in the fight for justice and a new trial for innocent death row inmate, political prisoner, award-winning journalist and author of seven books, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia's struggle for justice, a new trial, and freedom is supported by Amnesty International, the European Parliament, the city governments of San Francisco, Detroit, Berkeley, Paris, France, the Episcopal Church of the U.S., the ILWU, AFSCME and SEIU, the Calif. Labor Federation/AFL-CIO and millions of people who cherish democratic rights across the globe.

Mumia's case has made the fight against the racist and classist death penalty a national and international priority. The "legal" decisions involved in 22 years of litigation have made a mockery of the criminal justice system. A federal judge involved, William H. Yohn, disregarding evidence of innocence on the grounds that it was submitted too late, ruled that "innocence is no defense."

Here are some eye-opening facts on the case:

• Mumia, prior to his frame-up, was the leading media critic of the federally indicted Philadelphia Police Department.

• He has been sentenced to death for a crime, the killing of Police Officer Daniel Faulkner, that he did not commit.

• Several eye witnesses saw the real killer flee from the murder scene. They state that Mumia was not involved.

• Several of the Philadelphia police officers involved in Mumia's case have been convicted of frame-up activities including intimidation of witnesses, planting of evidence and involvement in prostitution and drug peddling.

• Critical evidence has been presented that both of the prosecution's "key witnesses" (Cynthia White and Robert Chobert) have admitted that they did not see the shooting and were not present at the murder scene. The evidence indicates that their trial testimony was the result of police coercion.

• A man who confessed to the actual murder, Arnold Beverly, has been prevented from testifying in court.

• Eleven of fourteen Black jurors were disqualified from serving on the jury for racist reasons, and the Philadelphia prosecutor's office had actually produced a video to teach prosecutors how to exclude Blacks from juries.

• The judge who presided over the trial, "hanging judge" Albert Sabo, had sentenced record numbers of defendants, especially Blacks, to death.

Photo by Constance D. James

Mica, a tutor for the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, marches at the Free Mumia march in Philadelphia.

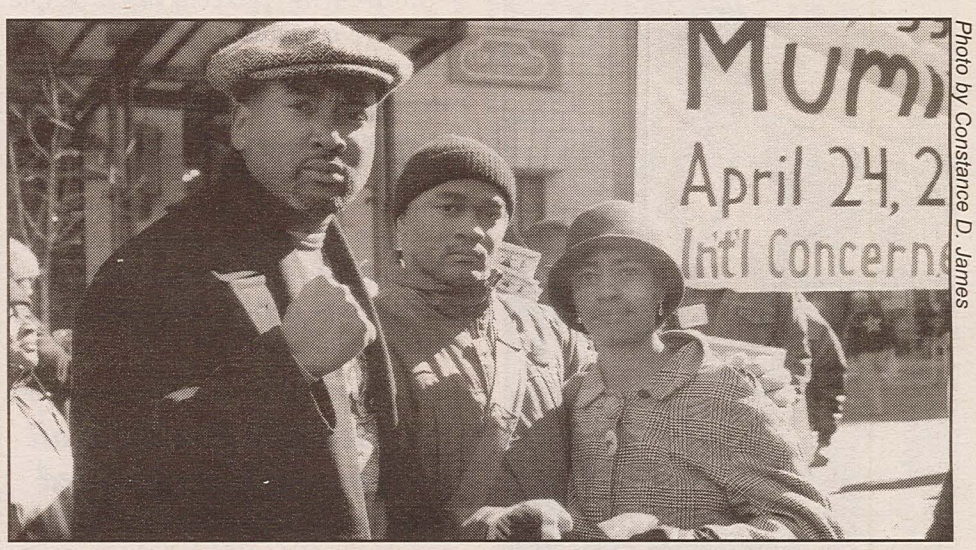

Photo by Constance D. James

Fred Hampton Jr., (left) Chairman of Prisoners of Conscience Committee, manifests solidarity with Mumia's wife, Habiba (right).

Photo by Constance D. James

Pam Africa, speaks to Mumia supporters at Philadelphia City Hall.

Photo by Constance D. James

Ramona Africa after her speech during the "Free Mumia" rally.

• His overt racism was attested to in a sworn deposition by award-winning court stenographer Terri Maurer Carter, who heard Sabo state before entering the courtroom to judge Mumia's case, "Yeah, and I'm going to help 'em fry the nigger."

• Evidence has been submitted that Mumia's so-called confession was fabricated by the police two months after his arrest.

• Critical evidence proving his innocence was concealed by Philadelphia police and the prosecutors.

• Forensic evidence proving his innocence was never heard by the jury.

Many of those who helped frame Mumia, or keep him on death row, have risen to the highest levels of national politics, including former Pennsylvania Republican Governor Thomas Ridge, George Bush's first Director of Homeland Security, and the present Pennsylvania Governor, Democrat Ed Rendell.

These are just some of the many facts in this amazing case of police, prosecutorial, and judicial misconduct and racism, which, if not countered, could lead to the death of an innocent man. Mumia's attorney, Robert R. Bryan, says that "Mumia's case, now before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit, is moving forward on the fast track. He is in grave danger. Pennsylvania state authorities want to silence his voice and are pressing hard once again for the death penalty."

Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, 298 Valencia St., SF CA 94102, 415-255-1085

email jmackler@lmi.net www.free-mumia.org

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Address to Li'l Bobby Hutton Day Celebration by Dr. Tolbert Small, Commemorator Medical Editor

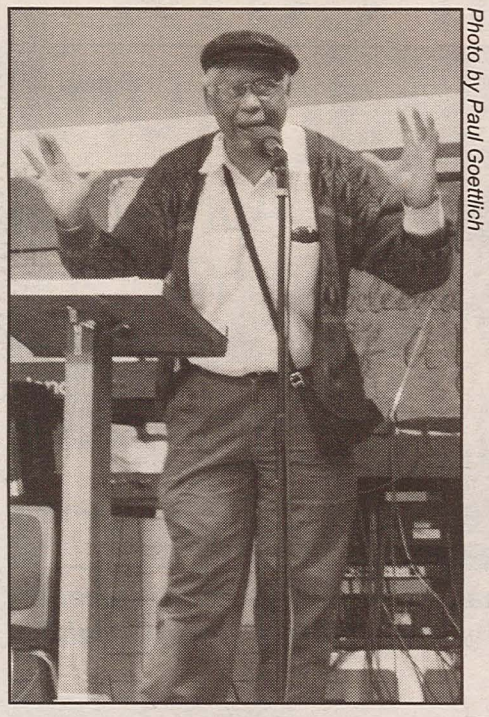

Photo by Paul Goettlich

Dr. Tolbert Small speaks out against health care denial and government repression at the Li'l Bobby Hutton Day Celebration, April 16.

Editor's Note: Dr. Tolbert Small was a volunteer physician at he Black Panther Party's George Jackson Medical Clinic and one of the founders of the BPP's Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation.

He continues his efforts to provide medical care for the low income community through his Harriet Tubman Medial Clinic in East Oakland.

Following is the speech by Dr. Tolbert Small to the April 16 Li'l Bobby Hutton Day celebration.

All power to the people! I worked with the Panther Party from 1970 to 1974. If we had a government that truly served the needs of the people, we wouldn't have had a need to exist. But we don't have a government that serves the needs of the people.

We're a country that consumes 60 percent of the world's wealth, yet what do we get for it? We have 45 million people with no healthcare insurance, including 6.6 million in California. We have 40 million more people who are underinsured. We have 6 million kids who do not have healthcare insurance, including 179,000 in California.

This is a problem plaguing the richest country in the world. So, we can ask: are we spending enough money on healthcare? We spend more money on healthcare than any other country in the world. We spend $1.6 trillion on healthcare. We spend 16 percent of our gross national product on healthcare; yet, 4 percent of the gross national product goes into some blood baron's pocket. For in the United States, 20 to 30% of every health care dollar spent goes into someone's pocket. It does not go to provide healthcare. We spend $6,100, on each person in United States, more than any other country in the world. Fifty percent of every health-care dollar in the world is spent in United States. Switzerland comes next. They spend 47 percent of what we spend on healthcare. Yet we have 44 million people with no healthcare.

In fact, fifty percent of all people who have declared bankruptcy in this country have done it because of healthcare. They cannot afford to pay their healthcare bills.

But where does that money go? Well, the head of one HMO sold his interest for $1 billion dollars – $1 billion dollars! This blood baron also received a 24 million corporate jet and 2 million dollars for jet fuel.

"In fact, fifty percent of all people who have declared bankruptcy in this country have done it because of healthcare. They cannot afford to pay their healthcare bills."

There is a merger going on now between Blue Cross-Well Point and Anthem which will create the largest health insurance in the country. For this merger, the Well Point executives will split over $356 million. I'll give you another example. The head of Foundation Health Corporation got paid a 3.4 million bonus in addition to his $2 million a year salary. At the same time that Foundation Health Insurance was denying bone marrow implants for people with breast cancer, which costs $120,000. Just think of how many marrow implants could we get for $3.4 million dollars. Women were dying because they were denying bone marrow transplants., in 1994, the entire country only spent $1.4 billion on AIDS research — public and private. Yet, the six leading robber barons in this country stole $2.4 billion. These six CEO insurance executives created a wall of greed by stealing more money than the entire country spent on AIDS. And so, that is why we got involved with the Black Panther Party. That is why there is still a need for a party to serve the needs of the people.

I was born in Mississippi. In 1955, I was in Mississippi when Emmett Till was savagely murdered. I often followed my grandfather with his mule, plowing the red clay in Mississippi. While in medical school, from 1963 to 1967, I worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. In 1965, the first Black Panther Party that I supported was the Lowndes County Freedom Party in Alabama. I even had a Black Panther bumper sticker on my car.

In 1965, Mark Comfort, the head of the Oakland Direct Action Committee, went down to Alabama to work with the Lowndes County Black Panther Party. Lowndes County was a stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan; Ms. Violet Liuzzo was murdered in Lowndes County. The Lowndes County Black Panther workers carried guns to protect themselves from the Ku Klux Klan. 90 percent of Lowndes County was black; yet, no black folks could vote. When Mark returned to Oakland, he told Huey about the Lowndes County Black Panther Party. That's where Huey got the conception of the Black Panther Party. Mark later went to Sacramento in 1966 with the armed Panthers.

In 1968, I came to Oakland to intern at Highland Hospital. In 1970, I went by the Black Panther office and told June Hilliard, "If you ever need a doctor, give me a call." Within days, the FBI attempted to contact Dr. Malcolm Nelson, the medical director of Highland Hospital, to inform him that Dr. Tolbert Small had agreed to work with the Black Panther Party. However, who did the FBI talk to? They didn't talk to the medical director; they talked to my intern, David Nelson, who shared the same last name as the medical director. David later informed me of the phone call

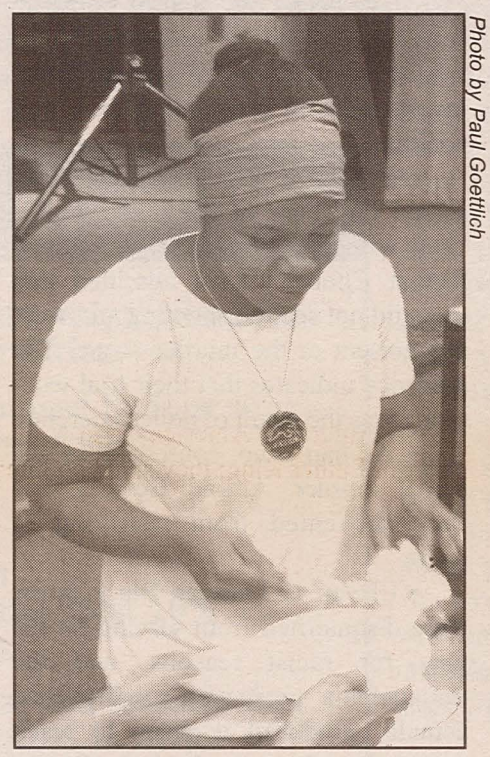

Photo by Paul Goettlich

Joyce Hutton, Li'l Bobby's niece, serves slices of cake at the celebration of her uncle's life and heroism.

Later, the FBI would arrange for Savak , the Iranian shah's dreaded secret police to terrorize a medical technologist who volunteered to work for George Jackson Free Clinic.

Through COINTELPRO, the FBI planted 67 paid agents into the 45 Black Panther Party chapters. COINTELPRO and contradictions with the Black Panther Party played a significant role in the demise of the party. I stopped working with the party around the same time that Big Man stopped working with them, which was in 1974.

But let's go back to the time when the Panther Party was founded. In 1966 racism firmly ruled this land. Our televisions portrayed the traditional black actor's role as a servant, such as Beulah. Northern inner-city police terrorized the Black communities. Southern Black travelers faced the dilemma of either sitting in the back of the bus or facing the threat of a lynching. Northern medical schools satisfied their quotas by admitting one or two Black students in each class. Southern medical colleges traditionally admitted no Black students.

Thus the ghetto's healthcare mirrored the institutional racism of our society. Bobby Seale was aware of racism in health care. It was his idea to set up our national Sickle Cell Anemia Program. As national chairman of the Black Panther Party Sickle Cell Anemia Project, we dramatized the American government's neglect of sickle cell anemia.

During this time, volunteers were raising up to $7.9 million for muscular dystrophy; $1.9 million for cystic fibrosis; but less than $100,000 for sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell anemia had more morbidity and mortality than those diseases, but it was a disease involving predominantly Black People. Nationally, the Black Panther Party's free clinics tested and counseled over a million Black People about sickle cell anemia. In fact, we lit a fire under Richard Nixon's ass. This dramatization of the neglect of sickle cell anemia forced Nixon to put forth a platform to reverse this country's neglect of sickle cell anemia. That's why in every major city in this country we have a sickle cell anemia project. Children's Hospital in Oakland is on the cutting edge of sickle cell anemia. If you go talk to Dr. Bertran Lubin, Children's Hospital's director of medical research, Dr Lubin will say, "We could not have done this without the Black Panther Party because nobody gave a damn about sickle cell anemia."

Audience applauds loudly.

The Black Panther Party was involved with setting up survival programs. Like I mentioned, if we had a government that served our needs, we

Continued on next page

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Tolbert J. Small, M.D.
Candace Byers, P.A.-C
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Kid's Corner

How do you feel about your environment?

Photo by Constance D. James

Joseph Anthony "Hydrant" Stallworth, 9 years old, attends the Lil' Bobby Hutton Literacy Tutoring sessions.

"I don't like people smoking, drinking and polluting my air.

"I don't like people robbing stores that we, the people, have to buy from to survive.

"I don't like people messing with other kids like me.

"I don't like people shooting and killing people around my house.

"I don't like police beating on other people.

"I don't like people fighting in wars and killing each other.

"I don't like people having messed up housing. They should have decent housing.

"I don't like the way people be charging people when we, the people, buy something from their store.

"I don't like people picking on little kids that are like me.

"I don't like people murdering other people because that's a bad thing.

"I don't like people who keep money but it's not even their money.

"I don't like how black and white people can't get along. They should get along. Why were they born."

— Joseph Anthony Stallworth ("Hydrant")

All Power to the People!

Dr. Small Speaks

Continued from previous page

wouldn't have a need to exist. The Black Panther Party operated 11 free clinics: Seattle, Los Angeles, Berkeley, New Haven, Portland, Chicago, Boston New York, and Philadelphia; There were two free clinics in both New York and Illinois.You know, unfortunately, in this country our nation still suffers from a lack of national health-care plan. More infants die before their first year of life in the United States than in Singapore. Among industrial nations, only the United States and South Africa have failed to provide their citizens with a national health-care plan. I think South Africa will have a national health-care plan before we do. There are already 3000 Cuban doctors volunteering in South Africa.

The World Health Organization ranks the United States 34th in the world in providing health-care for its people.

Through its health-care programs and other survival programs, the Black Panther Party so extremely dramatized the neglect of the Black underclass that it helped to make Martin Luther King and the NAACP respectable to middle class America. America didn't like Martin Luther King; they spied on him; they killed him; then they named a holiday after him. They even sanitized Martin Luther King's message. They had to sanitize him because Martin Luther King saved them from us. Unfortunately, Blacks who have rose to middle class, in part to the struggles of such human rights organizations as the Black Panther Party, do not offer a helping hand to their ghetto brothers. I think we have to remember that although the Black Panther Party has come and gone, its spirit still lives through Billy, Melvin, and the programs they espouse. Unfortunately racism and poverty have not come and gone. As we approach this century racism no longer struts on the front porch of the White House. It crawls through the back door of our ruling circles.

Thank you.
Much Applause

All power to the people!

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Black History Month

Poetry Slam for All Ages

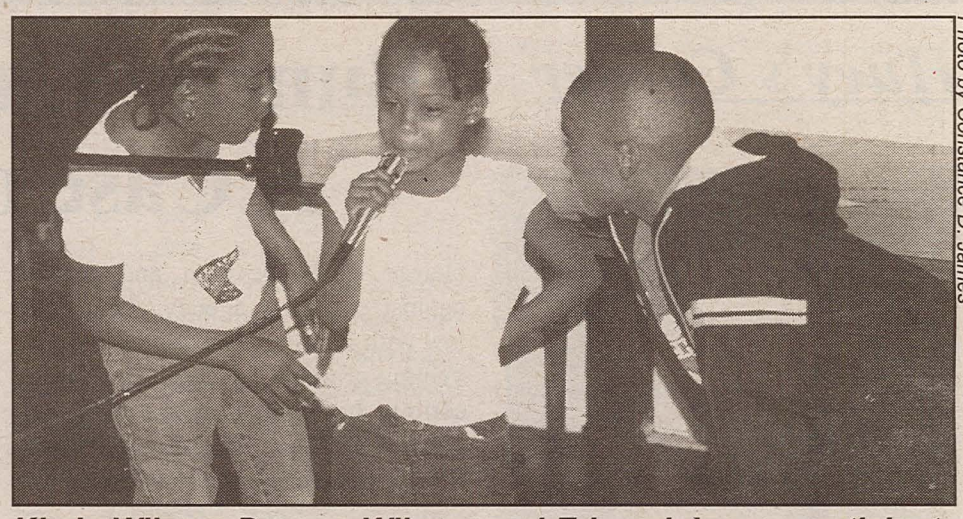


Photo by Constance D. James

Khyla Wilson, Danyea Wilson, and Edward Jones, participate in February 20 Poetry Slam at South Berkeley Community Church sponsored by L'il Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.

On Sunday February 20, 2005 at the **South Berkeley Community Church** where about 60 people turned out for a poetry slam organized by The Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, Black August Organizing Committee, and Copwatch as a neighborhood forum for "justice and art for healing."

People from the community and the church came together rhyming words of wisdom. Kush Amen, CCBPP Volunteer Coordinator, was the MC for the program.

Volunteers prepared refreshments:, chili beans seasoned to perfection, rice, corn bread, an assortment of beverages, and other goodies.

Volunteers welcomed everyone who attended and helped to provide a positive atmosphere throughout the program. According to Reverend Gayle Dickson, "The event really went well, and I'm really pleased to see this turn-out with everyone here, especially the young people."

Throughout the program San Francisco drummers Vince and Randall provided the powerful sounds from the heart with their African beats. Bay Area Hip Hop artist Ise Lyfe moved the crowd with his poetic rhymes laced with reality and truth, depicting today's reality in America ghettos and capitalist boardrooms.

"Whenever you can get a group of all ages, races, cultures, and religions and genders under one roof on one accord that is a definite step towards progress!" stated Pamela Thomas, a volunteer tutor for the Li'l Bobby Hutton and a local poet participant as well.

Individuals to expressed their thoughts and feelings about the conditions of the world, the country, and their neighborhoods in a positive and a welcoming atmosphere at the South Berkeley Community Church reflecting the makeup diverse neighborhood, This Black History Month Celebration included people of diverse cultures as well as age: blacks and whites, seniors as old as 98 and children as young as 6 participated.

Ruth Jones, a local activist who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, and was instrumental in organizing the very first BPP Free Breakfast program in 1972, was introduced to the audience by CCBPP Chair, Melvin Dickson. "Ruth is a treasure, she founded the BPP's Seniors Against A Fearful Environment (S.A.F.E.)."

Fred Hampton, Jr., son of the late legendary Black Panther Party leader, Fred Hampton, stopped by and spoke on the social conditions in the US and its fascist criminal justice system, or "criminal unjust system" that has targeted black poor and working class people leadership, leaders such as Malcolm X, the Black Panther Party, and Mumia Abu–Jamal. "It's time for all people, including the church, to take a stand against the injustice, genocide, and poverty we face." He shared several poems, in a voice that rang with the same strength and conviction of his slain father, who was the deputy chairman of the Chicago chapter of the Black Panther Party at the time of his murder by the Chicago police.

Children from the church youth program also offered their poems: 9-year-old Edward Jones, 6-year-old Danyea Wilson, 15-year-old Sharlonda. Doris, a mother, read a poem written by her son.

As point number five of the BPP's 10-point program states; we want education that teaches us our true history and our role in the present day society. Point number five is the criteria and basis for the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign. Therefore, both learners and tutors participated in the Black History, Sunday afternoon, program. Aqueila Lewis, a tutor, sang a gospel hymn "Peace." Pamela Thomas, another tutor read her poem entitled "Vision Third Eye," won the certificate and a copy of *Blood In My Eye*, by BPP Field Marshal George Jackson.

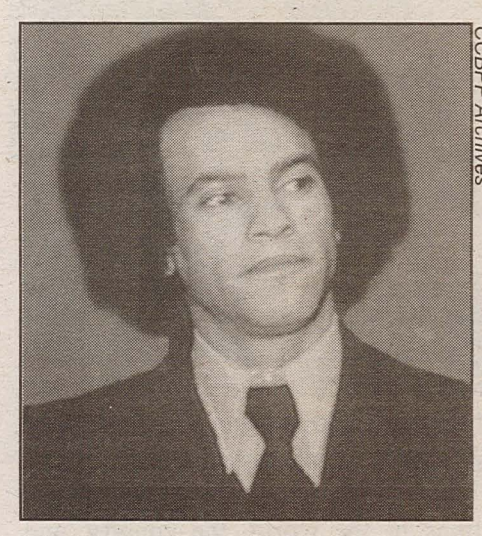
To join the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, call 510-652-7170

All Power to the people!

Archives

Huey's Corner

Bunchy Carter and John Huggins: A Case of FBI Assassination?



CCBPP Archives

Dr. Huey P. Newton

Editor's Note: *The following article by Dr. Huey P. Newton was taken from his 1977 Ph.D. dissertation. The thesis was published by the Huey P. Newton Foundation in a book called The War Against the Panthers: A study of Oppression in America (Writers and Readers, 1999), and is available at your local bookstore.*

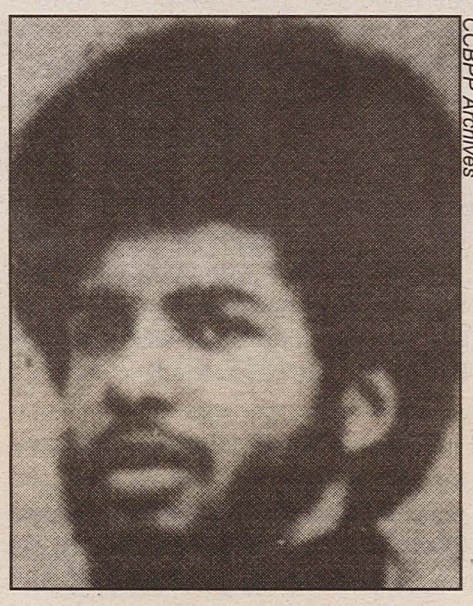
The public is well aware, after the publicity given the Senate Select Committee report in 1976, of the Bureau's efforts to create dissension between the BPP and other Black groups. Besides the Blackstone Rangers in Chicago, the other principal Black group that reportedly clashed with the Panthers in response to Bureau counterintelligence activities was the United Slaves (US), which was founded by Ron Karenga in Los Angeles. The impression given from official investigations is that the FBI merely took advantage of an existing state of "gang warfare" between the two organizations. This was supposedly accomplished by the sending of false death threats and derogatory cartoons in the name one organization to another.[114]

There is no doubt that the Bureau desired violence to occur between the two organizations. In 1970, for instance, after four BPP members had already been killed by alleged members of US, the Special Agent in charge of the Los Angeles office wrote to FBI Headquarters:

The Los Angeles Division is aware of the mutually hostile feelings harbored between the organizations and the first opportunity to capitalize on the situation will be maximized. It is intended that US, Inc. will be appropriately and discreetly advised of the time and location of BPP activities in order that the two organizations might be brought together and thus grant nature the opportunity to take her due course.[115]

To be sure, promoting violence for political reasons is a serious enough charge to be leveled and proved against a federal agency charged by law with investigating crimes and preventing criminal conduct. Much more serious, however, is the recently discovered evidence suggesting that the FBI participated in the murders of two Panthers, John Huggins and Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter, at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1969, helped to cover up their role, and sought to pin the blame on US.

The main source for this information is a former Black informant for the FBI named D'Arthard Perry, also known as Ed Riggs and, according to him, the code name "Othello" by

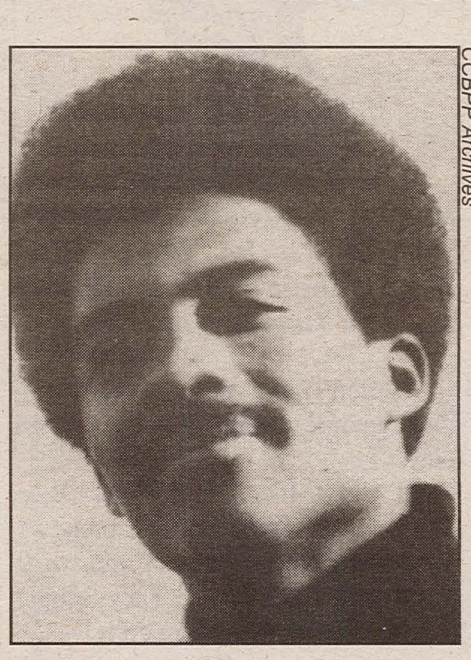


CCBPP Archives

John Huggins

Bureau officials with whom he dealt.[116] Perry claims that he was first recruited into working as an informant for the FBI in 1968 after being discharged from the Army. Economic need and the threat of having his state probation revoked if he failed to cooperate with the Bureau were the principal reasons he offers for agreeing to work with the Bureau. Though he was recruited while attending Sacramento State College, Perry reported directly to three Los Angeles FBI agents: Brandon Cleary, Will Heaton, and Michael Quinn. He was instructed to join the party, which he did, and initially report on its activities. Soon, however, he was requested to assume a more active role by stealing phone-address books of members for copying by the Bureau, providing floor layouts of Panther offices and even stealing the infamous "coloring book" draft that the party had scrapped, but the FBI doctored and circulated in the Party's name.

After successfully completing and receiving increasing pay for these tasks, Othello was instructed by the



CCBPP Archives

Bunchy Carter

FBI to assist in promoting discord between members of US and the Party in Los Angeles. He did go by, on at least one occasion, "beating up" a US member to give the impression it was sanctioned by the Party.[117]

On January 17, 1969, Perry was instructed by Cleary and Heston to go to Campbell Hall at UCLA. There a debate was to occur between the Panthers and US concerning the direction of the Black studies program on campus. Huggins and Carter were the main representatives of the Panthers. What happened then is best explained in Perry's words:

I arrived there in the late morning and observed many members of the Black Panther Party and US organization present in the room as well as other people not identified with either organization.

I observed the situation in the cafeteria that seemed to be nothing more than a meeting and left for a short time to go to a parking lot located near the building. The parking lot is reached by proceeding down a pathway, across a street and then to the parking lot.

Shortly after my arrival in the parking lot I heard shots from the direction of Campbell Hall.

Within a few minutes I observed George Stiner. Larry Stiner, and Claude Hubert also known as Chuchessa, jump into a 1967 or 1968 light tan or white, four-door Chevrolet driven by Brandon Cleary of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I saw this car drive away from the parking lot of Campbell Hall. I left the campus on foot and immediately went to FBI headquarters by bus. I inquired as to the whereabouts of Brandon Cleary at this time and was told he was not available. I am informed and believe that the four-door Chevrolet described above was the property of a man called,"Jomo," a known member of the US organization, now deceased."

I recognized George Stiner, Larry Stiner, and Claude Hubert from seeing them prior to this date on the 14th floor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation building on several occasions in the company of Brandon Cleary, the man I had seen drive them away from the Campbell Hall area.

I had been told to give a report within twenty-four hours of the incident to my supervising agent, Will Heaton, on the 14th floor of the Wilshire Blvd. Federal Bureau of Investigation building.

Continued on page 8

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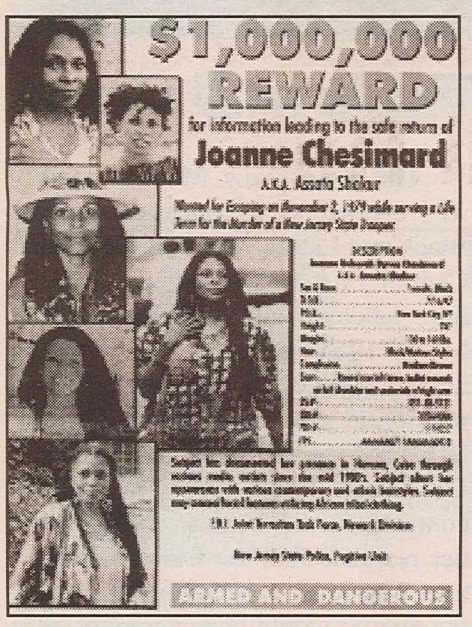
$1 Million Bounty on Assata



Recently the New Jersey State Police Department raised the bounty to $1 million for Black Panther Assata Shakur. "The government is making it possible for any snitch to earn a million dollars," said Constance James, a volunteer with the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy program.

Assata escaped from prison after being wrongfully convicted of killing a New Jersey State trooper in 1979. Now, at the age of 57, Shakur is listed as New Jersey's most wanted fugitive.

"This is a political issue," stated Shaka At-Thinnin, Chairman of Black August Organizing Committee (BAOC), "It's the politics of our skin color that puts us in the situation we are in."

Shakur is a political issue to both the people and the system. To the people, Shakur represents a strong soldier, who was shot, beaten, tortured, and incarcerated but still able to maintain her dignity.

This is yet another attack on Assata's life and an attack on the community. Shakur is now labeled as an international terrorist, and the government will go to any means to put Assata back in chains.

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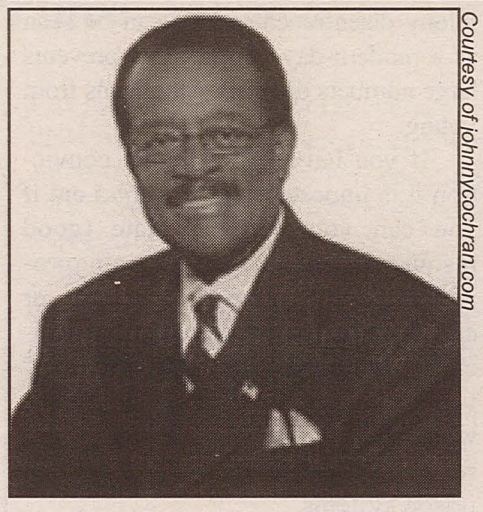
(He said he would come)

Johnnie Cochran Remembered



Courtesy of johnnycochran.com

By Geronimo ji-Jaga

Editor's Note: On the death of famed defense attorney Johnny Cochran, former BPP leader Geronimo ji-Jaga (Pratt), wrote on his relationship to the late civic rights attorney, who represented ji-Jaga as a Black Panther Party leader in a brother-in-struggle way

Tanzania, East Africa – I woke up this morning at 4:00, wide-awake. Something led me out of my bed and out the door of my shamba home here in Tanzania. I walked outside and looked into the African sky and wondered what this strange feeling was that had come over me. It wasn't bad; it was just a feeling that something was amiss. I just couldn't put my finger on it.

I walked back inside and went to the computer and right away I saw Johnnie's face, and I knew it was Johnnie who woke me up. Johnnie, who last time we spoke, had told me, "G, I'm coming. I told you I was coming. I am coming to the mama land with you!" And true to his word, he is right here with me. I can feel his presence grow stronger as the sun ascends over these sacred lands of the Great Rift Valley where life began.

He is talking to me now. "Look out for Chief." "Tell Ed to be cool." "Tell Stu not to worry." "Take care of Ginny."

It's not easy to try and put into words one's feelings at a time like this. So many words and pictures come to mind that it is very hard to put them in order and transcribe them. What I can say is this: Johnnie was a beautiful brother, who even after becoming well versed in the ugly reality of Cointelpro, always remained a calming influence for me, encouraging forgiveness for all those puppets who were being exploited by the system.

Despite the sick, sadistic practices of the government and its stooges, as documented in their own records, Johnnie continued to believe in the goodness of everyday people, who were being used, as he used to say, "for they know not what they do." Johnnie would want us all to keep forgiveness in our hearts but to remain vigilant of these rats, which are now going to come out of the woodwork and claim friendships with Johnnie and sing his praises just to promote themselves and their egos.

Johnnie never bought into the ego trip and was always willing to give his time and energy to represent the most underrepresented in society. He was a man with a heart as big as Yogi Pinell's.

Johnnie and I connected long before he began defending members of the Black Panther Party against police repression in Los Angeles. We both came out of the Mississippi Delta and the great tradition of struggle by Africans in the South to liberate ourselves from oppression.

We were born into this glorious history of resistance to the slavocracy, from the Bras Coupee Uprising and many other insurrections to the Afrikan Blood Brotherhood and the Garvey Legionnaires in the 1920s to the Deacons for Defense during the civil rights movement. Johnnie and I were comrades in struggle, sometimes employing different methods but fighting for similar goals, the freedom and self-determination of Afrikan people in particular and all oppressed people in general.

The tradition of struggle continued in Los Angeles where Johnnie "Chief" Cochran Sr. was one of the first men in Los Angeles to support the Free Breakfast for Children program of the Black Panther Party at the Second Baptist Church with Rev. Kilgore. Soon after, his son, Johnnie Cochran Jr., began defending the members of the Black Panther Party in court against the racist police and other agencies who set out to destroy our movement as part of the federal government's illegal Cointelpro program.

Unfortunately, too many people till refuse to acknowledge the corruption and injustice that is rampant within the so-called justice system in America. But Johnnie knew it and fought against it at every opportunity.

Johnnie fought not only for justice, but also for peace. And he has finally found his. I could talk all day about my beautiful brother, but I know he didn't wake me up for that this morning. I can hear him calling me now, telling me to get up, get out and continue to "Fight the good fight!"

Panberi ne Chimurenga!
(Ever onward to liberation).

Geronimo ji Jaga (Pratt), former Black Panther and 27-year political prisoner, now makes his home in Tanzania, East Africa.

All power to the people!

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Letters to the Editor

Voting Rights for Prisoners

Dear Citizen,

Voting is a fundamental right in a democracy and yet these laws restricting voting by convicts have been upheld by the Supreme Court. Moreover, in states such as California in which people with a felony conviction still have some voting rights, people in this circumstance are rarely given this information or they are given wrong information. As a result, many people have had the right to vote and didn't know it. Groups of activists are now springing up all over the country to make sure that correct information is given out and to build the base for removing the voting restrictions from state laws.

Denial of the right to vote for convicted felons and previously incarcerated people grew out of the shameful history of slavery in this country. Because of continuing racial injustices in U.S. society and our judicial and legal systems, the burden of these restrictive voting laws falls disproportionately on African-American communities. In fact, felony disenfranchisement can be seen as a modern-day poll tax that prevents large numbers of Black Americans from voting.

If you have had a felony conviction it is important that you find out if you can vote in your state (good resources are wwwsentencingproject.org and wwwrighttovote.org or call your local or state elections officials). And if you can vote, DO! Add your voice to those of other people who would like to remove these restrictions and reform our judicial and prison systems.

Whether or not you have had a felony conviction, you can help spread the word about voting rights and the importance of voting as a tool to build stronger communities. During this historical time in which our rights are under assault like never before, it is especially important to express your outrage through the ballot box and by being active in your community.

Judy Grether,
Voting Rights for All!

IAC Caravan Protests War, Hospital Closure

Dear Editor,

On March 19 a car caravan rolled through the African American community of Watts and on to Hollywood with lights on, horns honking, and banners displayed. Unlike the meaningless commercial ads commanding the attention of people along the sidewalks, this caravan was greeted by the South Los Angeles community with fists in the air and shouts of approval, because it was about something real—health care and the demand to stop sacrificing social services for the billions spent on war in Iraq.

The International Action Center initiated the motorcade in conjunction with an action held the same day in New York City called by the Troops Out Now coalition. The caravan went from King-Drew Medical Center in South LA to a Hollywood demonstration called by the ANSWER coalition marking the second anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Over 10,000 people were in attendance at the rally.

The motorcade's cars were draped with banners stating, "Save King-Drew, shut down the war" and "Money for health care, not war." A Service Employees Local 660 van and SUV participated in the motorcade.

King-Drew Hospital has been threatened with closure and now faces demands to cut back services by county officials. The predominately Latino and Black community served by the hospital has launched a successful fightback with help from Rep. Maxine Waters.

The King-Drew Medical facility was created as a concession to the Black and Latino community in South Central Los Angeles after the rebellion (labeled riots by the powers that be) in 1965 in Watts. The rebellion helped expose the fact that the community is the most underserved in terms of health care in Southern California. South LA's community contains fewer health-care facilities per resident than the California average. Many here believe that closing the facility would be tantamount to an act of genocide against people of color and an injustice to working and poor people in general.

The IAC organized the caravan to show solidarity with the people of South LA and expose the direct links between the war budget and the theft of services from working class and especially nationally oppressed communities.

The caravan fed into the anti-war demonstration held in Hollywood in order to strengthen that rally with voices from communities that have not always been well represented in the anti-war protests. IAC organizers saw the caravan as a success and an important step toward building a stronger movement with deeper roots in the working class and nationally oppressed communities.

By John Parker
Los Angeles
March 23, 2005

All power to the people!

Huey's Corner

Continued from page 6

A few hours later, I went to the building and met with my supervising agent, Will Heaton. While in his company, I observed George Stiner, Larry Stiner, and Claude Hubert in the company of Brandon Cleary on the 14th floor of the Federal Bureau of Investigation building. I asked Cleary, "what was happening" and was told that there had been a "fuck up—no one was to be killed by 'our' people." I also learned that the car that had been driven by Cleary was taken from the place Jomo Shambulia had parked it and returned to the same parking space after the incident. I also learned that it was Claude Hubert who fired the shot that killed John Jerome Huggins and the same Claude Hubert who fired the shot that killed Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter and not George or Larry Stiner.

Through information and belief, I have knowledge that George Stiner and Larry Stiner were Intelligence Gatherers for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and were working for Brandon Cleary and others when John Jerome Huggins and Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter were murdered. I am informed and believe that Claude Hubert was on January 17, 1969 at the time he reportedly executed John Jerome Huggins and Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter, an agent in the service of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Los Angeles office. I am further informed that this same Claude Hubert was subsequently transferred to an east coast office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, specifically New York, New York.[118]

The Stiner brothers, after reportedly surrendering themselves to the police, were tried and convicted of the murders of Carter and Huggins. They were sentenced to San Quentin, a maximum security prison. Four years later they were, as "model" prisoners, transferred to the minimum security section of the prison. They were then both allowed a conjugal visit, at which time they escaped and have not been heard from to this date.[119] Hubert has also never been apprehended.

End Notes:

[114] Book III: Finale Report, pp. 190-192.

[115] FBI Memorandum from Los Angeles Field Office to Hqtrs, May 26, 1970.

[116] An article about an "Othello" was published in Penthouse magazine in April 1980, written by Ernest Volkman. The information in that article is consistent with affidavits filed by Charles Garry and Fred Hiestand, members of the Bar of the State of California, and Elaine Brown, former Chairperson of the BPP, in Black Panther Party v. Levi, No. 76-2205, U.S. Dist. Ct. (D.C.).

[117] Ibid. .

[118] Perry gave two affidavits: one to attorney Fred J. Hiestand and the other to attorney Charles R. Garry. After approving both affidavits, Perry failed to show up at the agreed upon time at the office of either attorney to execute his sworn statement. He telephoned both Hiestand and Garry to tell them that he was seeking to hide from the FBI who were after him. Accordingly, the affidavit Perry had agreed to sign for Charles R. Garry was filed in Black Panther Party v. Levi, No. 76-2205, as an attachment to the attorney's affidavit. It is from this document that the long textual quotation is taken. (Interview with Fred J. Hiestand, January 9, 1980).

[119] On April 11, 1977, an agent of the FBI called upon Elaine Brown, then Chairperson of the BPP, at her residence for the alleged "purpose of discussing the more than three-year old escape from prison of the accused murderers of John Huggins and Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter . . . . The agent identified himself as Duke Diedrich..., and ask[ed] a series of questions about Brown's knowledge of the whereabouts of these convicted murderers." Affidavit of the Elaine Brown, April 29, 1977, and filed in BPP v Levi.

All power to the people!

Conscious Break

Continued from page 2

you continue to go about 'business as usual' is not revolutionary. If people really desire freedom from want, they need to come to terms with the fact that it requires commitment, work, study and the willingness to work under discipline with others whose tried and true practice can teach the lessons of leadership and the power of organization..

Since 1990, the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party has been building on the legacy of the Black Panther Party through *The Commemorator* newspaper and through the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign. We have established contacts in many communities that are suffering from the lack of organization. Today, our greatest need is for volunteers and cadre to learn the methodology by which we have been able to grow to this point, and then help to be part of building revolutionary organization in the length and breadth of this country. Anyone interested can come and learn about organizing revolutionary solutions to the problems facing our communities. We will develop individualized training programs for part-time and full-time organizers. Call 510-652-7170 today for an interview.

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International Update

Shredding Haiti's Constitution:
UN Betrayal in Port au Prince

Courtesey of Indy Media

Jordanian soldier member of UN "peacekeeping" force called MINUSTAH with mission in Haiti

by Sasha Kramer

Editor's note: This article was submitted by Bay Area human rights activitist, Pierre Labossiere who, along with the author, Sasha Kramer, is a leading member of the Haitian Action Committee.

Kramer lives in the Bay Area and visits Haiti quite frequently. She is currently coordinating a petition campaign on behalf of Annette August, a 63 year-old Haitian grandmother and a well-known singer who is currently locked-up in Petionville penitentiary after being rounded- up and imprisoned by the U.S.-installed Latortue government as a result of demanding that the constitutionally-elected president, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, be allowed to return to office.

In addition to the fascist policies promoted by the Latortue government, the actions of the Stabilization Mission of the United Nations in Haiti (MINUSTAH) place it solidly on the side of U.S.A. policy towards Haiti, along with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and US Agency for International Development (USAID) policies, and they are in support of the puppet Latortue government.

Radio Ginen, one of the sources for this article, is a Haitian radio station that supports Aristide and the Lavalas movement.

On February 28 Brazilian UN troops, part of the MINUSTAH mission in Haiti, stood by as police opened fire on unarmed demonstrators, killing five and wounding dozens. Following the demonstration UN officials condemned the shooting, and for the first time stated that if this happened again they would intervene "with force if necessary". They also restricted the police from attending several demonstrations later that week.

These bold, and ultimately disingenuous, statements from UN special envoy Juan Gabriel Valdes created a moment of hopefulness, and peaceful demonstrations swelled in numbers over the past weeks in response to the heightened security brought about by conspicuous police absence. People felt a new degree of safety and the nonviolent pro-democracy movement was gaining tremendous momentum.

Last Thursday, March 24, police once again opened fire on thousands of unarmed demonstrators in Cite Soleil as they courageously took to the streets to demand the return of President Aristide and the release of all political prisoners in Haiti. Reports indicate that between 3 and 5 people were killed. Apparently, UN forces were present at the demonstration but not in sight when the shooting took place. They have yet to release a statement about the incident.

Then on Thursday evening, Father Gerard Jean Juste, beloved priest and pro-democracy activist, was attacked by an assailant as he returned to the church rectory. Friends managed to chase the attacker away and later he was captured and detained by community members. Then the following evening, as Father Jean Juste was doing a live interview with Flashpoints radio on KPFA in Berkeley, several men in black masks jumped out of a car and began firing at the rectory with machine guns.

These attacks eerily came on the same day that Father Jean Juste delivered a special mass commemorating the life of Archbishop Oscar Romero, a liberation theologian killed by US trained militias in El Salvador on March 24, 1980.

Calls were made to the Brazilian UN following both incidents but UN troops did not arrive on the scene until Saturday evening's Easter mass.

On Tuesday March 29, thousands gathered in Bel Air to peacefully commemorate the signing of their constitution and to demand that the international community respect that constitution, starting with the return of the duly elected president, Jean Bertrand Aristide.

Prior to the march, organizers negotiated the route with MINUSTAH. Then on the morning of the demonstration MINUSTAH soldiers distributed flyers in Bel Air saying that the government had declared the march illegal. Despite these warnings thousands of people gathered in Bel Air to demand their constitutional right to protest on the 18th anniversary of the constitution.

What follows is an account of Radio Ginen's footage of Tuesday's events:

Apparently, things broke down when Gen. Heleno (shown on camera with an army helmet) claimed that MINUSTAH's demonstration permit (shown on camera) was not valid because the demonstrators had not simultaneously informed BOTH MINUSTAH and the PNH with the necessary advance notice. MINUSTAH alone does not suffice.

The demonstration's organizers then made the argument that they cannot be filing the permit request with the PNH when it is the same PNH that is gunning demonstrators down at demonstrations.

The argument became heated and high-volume, with choice words exchanged, after which Heleno declared "It's your country, not mine. I'm not the legal authority here, the PNH is. You must recognize their authority," and the crowd chanting "MINUSTAH must go" before Heleno retreated to his vehicle. The demonstration continued, but MINUSTAH blocked off the planned demonstration pathway, and the crowd could not get to the Palace area. Chaos ensued, shooting, several people injured with gunshot wounds, apparently from MINUSTAH.

A demonstrator said, "MINUSTAH completely dispersed the demo. People are frustrated, MINUSTAH didn't let people demonstrate. Juan Gabriel Valdes gave the assurance allowing the people to demonstrate, and it's not being respected. There is a 'kouri' (free-for-all). MINUSTAH's spokesperson assured us security

Courtesey of Indy Media

UN outpost on outskirts of Haiti's of Cite Soleil .

along the route we planned with MINUSTAH. That was our program, to demand that the constitution be respected. MINUSTAH shot tear gas and crushed the demonstration. Shooting is occurring. MINUSTAH is firing on us. Latortue asked us for 48 hour notice. We gave them 72. Why are they shooting us?

"The constitution is 18 years old. Today, all Haitians celebrating the 18th year, but it's desolation and insecurity. The occupiers and the sell-outs are holding the country hostage. Journalists, police, students are dying, no one has security, any way Latortue and Boniface are giving the country away to United States, Canada, and France, but the final victory will be for the people in struggle."

Just last week Father Jean Juste said, "As long as MINUSTAH's position supports the enjoyment of our human rights, we'll walk along. If they return to their oppressive attitude, we'll reject them like we did the killer policemen."

Why this return to an oppressive attitude? This reversal of tactic on the part of MINUSTAH is doubly egregious. They directly participated in human rights abuses, including the severe beating of a 12-year-old boy, and they misled and betrayed the organizers, making false promises regarding security provisions.

These past weeks marked a critical moment for the MINUSTAH mission in Haiti. UN officials were faced with a choice between two conflicting components of their mandate: to back an illegitimate government and a violent police force infiltrated by the former military, or to protect human rights.

In the first year following the overthrow of the democratically elected government, UN troops primarily focused on fulfilling the first part of their mandate to the detriment of human rights, and numerous lives were lost as a result of this duplicitous and politically repressive policy.

On January 5, UN troops arrested Jimmy Charles, a Lavalas organizer. Community members begged them not to turn him over to the police, fearing for his life. Ignoring these demands, the UN turned him over to the police, and on January 15 his body was found in the morgue with 6 bullets.

The people of Haiti, particularly the families of those that died, have not forgotten this incident, nor have they forgotten that it was the UN that trained the police and continues to prop up an illegitimate government in direct violation of their OAS obligations.

Nonetheless there were many who heard Juan Gabriel Valdes say that "The UN mandate for the peacekeepers–which requires them to support the police no matter the circumstances–is being reevaluated at the highest levels" and felt a moment of hope.

Was it possible that a combination of international pressure and personal shame would move the UN to change their policy? There seemed to be some recognition that the MINUSTAH mandate, as written, is untenable. It is simply impossible to defend human rights when one is required to back those committing the abuses.

Hope was further bolstered as the UN began to take aggressive steps to dislodge the former military from several towns where they have been terrorizing the populations. Three UN peacekeepers lost their lives last

Continued on page 13

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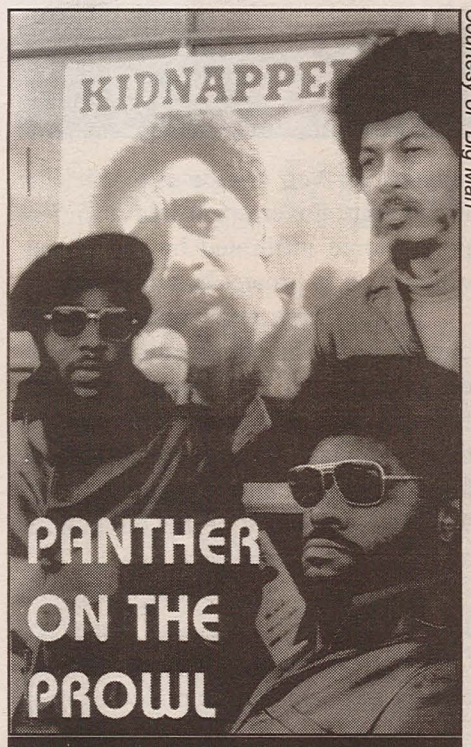

Courtesy of "Big Man"

Bobby Hutton

Continued from page 1

friends and defenders of the BPP Program gather and commemorate the commitment and passion of the Black Panther Party's first martyr. Li'l Bobby showed his leadership in countless ways. Not only did he step forward to carry the Black Panther message to Sacramento in 1966 with Bobby Seale and a cadre of others, but Li'l Bobby taught himself to read, using the BPP Ten Point Program as his text book, because he decided that reading was an essential skill of a revolutionary.

Organizers and volunteer tutors and learners from CCBPP's Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign attended the celebration, paying tribute to the fallen leader in the best way possible, by carrying forward the 10-Point Program for which he fought and died. With clipboards, pens, leaflets and "Li'l Bobby Hutton" t-shirts, CCBPP volunteers enrolled new potential volunteer tutors and new learners for the Literacy Campaign.

At the event, "Big Man" recalled, Li'l Bobby Hutton was like my kid brother. He was very serious about the BPP at such a very young age. He was very attentive to political education. We had a little red book that we studied political principles from. Those principles taught us things like 'Don't take liberties with women.' 'Don't take anything from the people of the community, not even a needle or a piece of thread.'"

"Big Man" then read from his recently published book, Panther on the Prowl.

Former BPP member Richard Aioki, reminisced. "Li'l Bobby was a sharp dresser. He was a mature thinker and was very serious about his commitment to the BPP," Aioki stated.

Bay Area African American journalist and poet Wanda Sabir emceed the program. Saxophone player Howard Wiley and drummer Geechi Taylor of the Wiley & Taylor jazz ensemble set the atmosphere with their rendition of John Coltrane's, My Favorite Things. Stargroove (Larry Robinson) sang tunes by Marvin Gay. Sacramento poets, Straight Out

Photo by Constance D. James

Emory Douglas, BPP founding member, speaks about video on the BPP's Oakland Community Learning Center.

Scribes, read animated, stereophonic, consciousness-raising poems.

Laney 's Club Knowledge Hosts Benefit

On March 19, Club Knowledge of Oakland's Laney College hosted a benefit event for CCBPP's Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign where music, speakers, film and spoken word artists highlighted the urgent need to continue the struggle to expand the survival programs the Black Panther Party began almost 40 years ago.

The event was part of an ongoing campaign by CCBPP to involve more people in the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign which is a program to teach reading to both adults and youth who are not learning to read through the public school system. "Our goal is to expand the number of sites and classes we have going now throughout the community so that we can increase the ranks of volunteers involved in this education campaign. We are putting a drive on it now so we have a full scale program through the summer," said Melvin Dickson, CCBPP Chairman and founder of the literacy program.

The March 19th event included the showing of a rare 1977 film, in which Black Panther founder, Huey P. Newton, is interviewed by 10 year-old student Kelita Smith from the Oakland Community School run by the Black Panther Party.

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program

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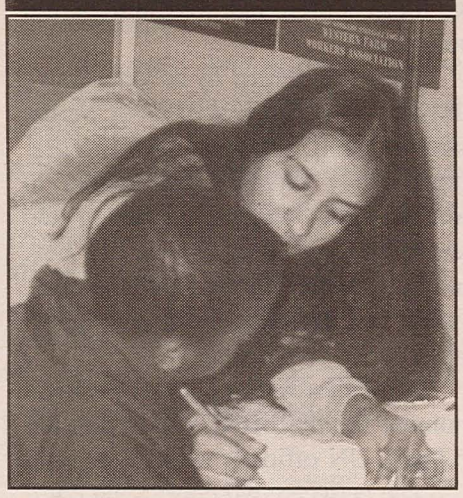

Photo by Constance D. James

Dorothy Bordenave (left) serves chili beans and rice at Oakland, California's Laney College benefit for the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.

Emory Douglas, former Minister of Culture of the Oakland Chapter during the time of the 1977 film, one of founding members of the Black Panther Party, was on hand as the featured speaker. He commented on the existing exploitation and oppression in our low-income and working class communities, the closing of schools, and money spent for an imperialist war of aggression, and how important it is to keep our community organized, alive and strong. "There are so many attacks on our communities that we must identify the issue at hand, attempt to resolve this ongoing assault, and then sustain the strength and wisdom of our people."

CCBPP's Volunteers Coordinator Kush Amen emceed the program, introducing former BPP members and other dignitaries, keeping the audience involved and informed of who each of the performers and guests were. He also read and explained The Black Panther Party's 10 Point Program.

Fabulous Performances Support Literacy Program

In support of the Literacy Program, the F.U.G.I.T.I.V.E.S. of The Black Panther Party record label, performed selections from their CD, Revolutionary Analysis of BAADASSSSS. They incorporated educated lyrics, with artistic beats, keeping viewers excited and engaged.

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign volunteers, Stephanie Leroux and Pamela Thomas, talked about their work as tutors. Stephanie, who has volunteered with the program for more than 3 years, gave a history of the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, describing how it started at CCBPP's office in October 2001 and encouraged the audience to join the campaign, and to help expand the number of sessions and locations for the sessions. "It's important that the younger ones know about those who fought for them before," she said, describing how the tutorial sessions include going over the Black Panther Party's 10 Point Program and connecting it to everyday life they see around them. The learners can increase their awareness, gain skills in how to think for themselves and gain even more motivation to arm themselves with increased reading skills and do more reading, for the goal of gaining control over their future

Education and Reading Skills With a Purpose

The literacy program promotes truthful education with a focus on the history of the Black Panther Party's 10 Point Program, and the history of working people's struggles in general in the US and the world, as well as analysis of current events and organizing for change going on now. Point #5 of the 10 Point Program

Continued on next page

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Photo by Constance D. James

CCBPP volunteer Pamela Thomas talks about her role as a tutor of the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.

Bobby Hutton

Continued from previous page

speaks about true education that teaches accurate history of the creation of America and the position of Africans in its contemporary society. Reading is an important weapon in our ability to be educated to the reality of how this country is being governed and how to change it. During slavery, learning to read was punishable by death. They knew how dangerous an educated slave was. Our youth are not learning to read in our underfunded, crowded, poorly equipped schools, and are not given truthful material to study. Too many of our seniors were denied the chance in their youth when they had to work, and have been covering up their inability to read for decades, getting by in the system. So the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign is for all of us.

Learning How to Think, Not What to Think

The Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign is teaching how to think, not what to think. There is a very big difference in knowing how to think for yourself and concluding an answer though investigation and participation, as opposed to following the way of society just because, "it is all you know," stated Stephanie.. "We need to be aware of all Political Prisoners held in all of these concentration camps all over the world; mainly in America, for being poor and their political beliefs and principles. "We need to be aware of the teachings and actions of our revolutionary leaders and knowledgeable people, and not follow and admire the rich, capitalistic hounds or the "bling bling" people, and the "Mr. I-got-all-this-money-but-don't-really-help-my-people-man," stated Pam Thomas, a history teacher for the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program.

Michele Coates, a volunteer tutor for the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program, and an outreach volunteer for the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) stated, "Education exhibits knowledge and knowledge exhibits truth. Once

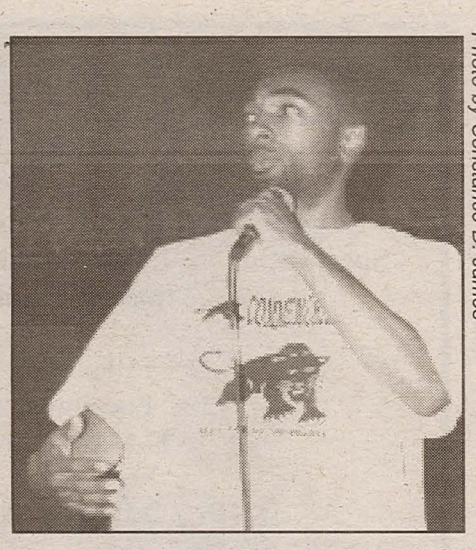

Photo by Constance D. James

Kush Amen, MC of Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy program at Laney College

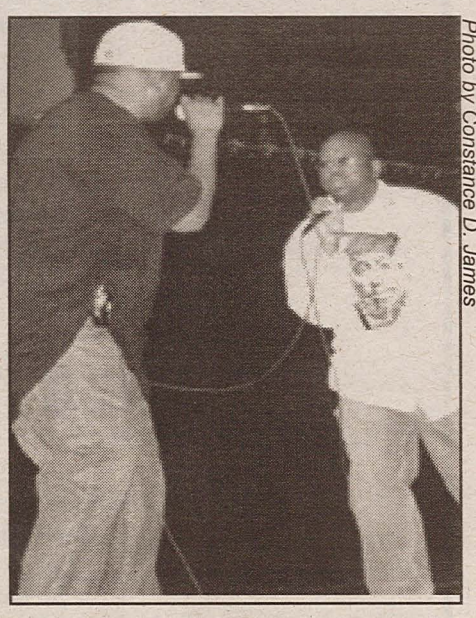

Photo by Constance D. James

The F.U.G.I.T.I.V.E.S. perform song's from their new album, "Sweet Sweetbacks."

Americans are able to see what is really going on, know what has been going on throughout history, before and since slavery, then we are in a position to increase our force and change the pain and suffering haunting our communities. Education is necessary among all people, and this tribute to The Black Panther Party benefiting The Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign is a wonderful way to support and encourage it. We need to free the chains of capitalist teachings. We need volunteers who are willing to make a commitment to the goals and principles of successful organizing strategies, to learn the history, to educate our minds of accuracy and truth."

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign Needs Volunteers

"The Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign is only the beginning.. We need more tutors, teachers, sites and outreach organizers, and we'll make this an all-out literacy campaign. And this literacy campaign is part of a larger continuation campaign to organize and liberate our people who are under attack; knowingly or unknowingly, and to understand the different levels of discrimination, what is being done to us individually and collectively, and to gain the tools and learn the methods necessary to change what is happening," stated Melvin Dickson, CCBPP Chairman. "Join us now. We must seize the time now, and not get caught in the trap of waiting for them to do it for us."

Everyone can play an important role in this campaign. Call us today at CCBPP to find out how you can participate.

All Power to the People!

Longshoremen

Continued from page 1

year-round," said Melvin Dickon, Chairman of CCBPP.

The crowd in San Francisco swelled to 20,000 as the rain subsided in the late morning. The S.F. march included contingents from the San Francisco and Alameda County Central Labor Councils, Labor Committee for Peace & Justice, Glide Memorial Church, the Palestinian and Arab-American community, students, immigrant rights movement and many other organizations and groupings.

Longshore Union Members Lead the Protest

The striking dock workers, along with the ILWU Local 10 marching drill team, drove in a caravan of buses and cars to Dolores Park in San Francisco's Mission District to join the throng as the rain came down on Union members proud of their union membership as demonstrated by the colorful buttons and ILWU jackets they wore. ILWU members marched with a banner reading, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Nationally and Internationally, hundreds of thousands of people from working class communities conducted similar demonstrations to the one led in San Francisco by ILWU Local 10, demanding that the United States end its military occupation and war of aggression against the people of Iraq.

The longshore workers of Local 10 successfully shut down the Bay Area ports. No cargo was loaded or unloaded during the one-day protest, but, not surprisingly, the mainstream media gave no coverage to this action.

Iraq War an Attack on the U.S. Working Class

On the day of the protest, the House of Representatives voted for the Bush Administration's request for an additional $82 billion to fund the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. This war, before adding the projected $82 billion, has so far cost the American working class over $218 billion [according to what source]. Each day the U.S. spends over $200 million of working people's money.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Defense, since March 19, 2003 the official beginning of the U.S.-led war on Iraq, 1,594 American military personnel have been killed in Iraq; 1,457 of these have died since President Bush declared "mission accomplished" on May 13, 2003, and 1,127 of these since the capture of Saddam Hussein on December 13, 2003. The official figures for U.S. wounded are 11,664 although some estimates place the figure much higher. In addition, 86 Britons, 100 Kurds, 20 Italians, 19 Jordanians, 16 Poles, 16 Ukrainians, 14 Nepalese, 11 Spaniards, 11 Turks and 90 others from "coalition forces" have been killed.

The casualty figures for Iraqis are much higher. At least 10,000 Iraqi military personnel, more than 2,000 Iraqi policemen and more than 20,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the official start of the war, and that figure climbs every day.

Congressman Ike Skelton, a Democrat from rural Missouri, says small towns are paying more for the war than their share. He has compiled statistics showing that 43 percent of those killed in action in Iraq and 44 percent killed in Afghanistan through mid-February 2005 came from towns of 20,000 people or fewer. Less than 23 percent of the U.S. population lives in towns that size. This appears consistent with the anecdotal data we hear daily in the mainstream news media. Many of the military personnel we hear about or see in the media, from Pvt. Jessica Lynch to Abu Ghraib's Lynndie English are from low-income families in small towns.

Just as in the Viet Nam War, the U.S. government began the military build up by enlisting primarily in the poor and minority communities, sending them off to be cannon fodder. The escalation of the war effort led to a steady increase in the numbers of soldiers shipped off to Vietnam. As the need for ground troops swelled with increasing casualties, the U.S. government instituted the draft and started drafting young men in higher economic brackets, most noticeably college students.

Government policy shifted, student deferments were rescinded and middle-income college students and their parents joined the anti-Vietnam war movement in response. Students began to see their own interests linked to those of the lower income Americans who enlisted in the military because they could not afford to attend college and were unable to find jobs. Young men from these same sectors of the population later became the first to be drafted.

As a result of the combined pressure of growing discontent at home in the form of the anti-war movement and the increasing success of the National Liberation Front under the communist-led leadership of North Viet Nam, President Nixon withdrew U.S. troops from Viet Nam in 1972. The U.S. government then ended the draft and instituted the so-called "all volunteer" military, again featuring the sons and daughters of low-income families as the majority of military foot soldiers. For many poor youth, the military provided the only sure-fire jobs available. Hence, in the 21st Century, it is once again the poor who populate the military units shipped off to Iraq because, for so many, it is the only job around.

History of Longshore Union Militancy

The use of labor stoppage to protest policies beyond just the individual economic interests of a union membership has long been the hallmark of the ILWU. We can take lessons from the tradition of labor solidarity the ILWU and specifically Local 10 of San Francisco has demonstrated and combine that type of effort with our own organizing today to build a nationwide movement for change.

Harry Bridges, founder of the ILWU, was a key organizer in the 1934 San Francisco General Strike. Union members of Local 10 refused to load and unload cargo to protest the deplorable working conditions on the docks of San Francisco, their militancy sparked the general strike. The San Francisco Port Commissioner addressed a crowd

Continued on next page

Courtesy of the Million Man March

San Francisco ILWU local 10 President Trent Willis, with ILWU drill team members, speaks out at the March 19, 2005 anti-war protest.

Longshoremen

Continued from previous page

of striking workers on San Francisco's Embarcadero and ordered the port open. An unknown gunman shot the Port Commissioner between the eyes and a union official declared the port closed. Meanwhile two striking workers were shot, inflaming labor far beyond the limits of the maritime strike. ILWU, Teamsters and Machinists led the other unions of San Francisco in closing down all commerce in the City for three days. Even the San Francisco police union walked out in support. The general strike won material gains for the striking dock workers and demonstrated a solidarity in labor that has endured for over half a century.

The ILWU took a militant stance in 1936 after Japan invaded Manchuria but prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that signaled US entry into World War II. Under Bridges' leadership, the ILWU refused to load scrap metal bound for Japan that was certain to be used by the Japanese in their imperialist aggression in China and elsewhere.

Once again in the 1970s, the union demonstrated solidarity with the efforts of United Farm Workers Organizing Committee (UFWOC) to organize California's farm workers by refusing to load California grapes that had been purchased by then-Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird to feed to U.S. troops in Vietnam in a direct, overt and blatant attempt to break the successful nationwide boycott of California table grapes that been widely supported by the U.S. population.

ILWU again united their membership and refused to unload cargo from Chile after a military coup in 1973 overthrew Salvador Allende, Chile's popularly elected president.

In 1989, ILWU members refused to unload coffee from El Salvador to protest union-busting on Central American coffee plantations.

In 1997 and 1998 the union refused to unload cargo the union believed to have been loaded by non-union "scab" labor in foreign ports.

Longshore workers also protested the system of racial apartheid in South Africa by not touching cargo from that nation.

In August 2001, ILWU members in Portland, Oregon temporarily refused to unload an Italian-managed cargo ship at the Port of Portland, protesting the death of an Italian activist during the previous month's riots in Genoa, Italy.

We Want an Immediate End to All Wars of Aggression.

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party is organizing every day to carry forward the positive program of the Black Panther Party goals described in the Ten Point Program.

"We know that work stoppages alone will not change government policy of using poor people to fight wars for the profit of major corporations." said Dickson. "The international monopoly capitalists will not end their wars of aggression until the working people of this country stop them. We cannot afford to wait, and we cannot afford to continue to allow them to treat us as expendable, whether it is through placing us in jobs with dangerous work conditions, placing hazardous and toxic waste producing industries or dumps in low-income neighborhoods, sending us to prison to exploit our labors or shipping us to foreign countries to fight their wars. We have to organize to change it."

Point number 8 of the Black Panther Ten Point Program is: *We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U.S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U.S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressor.*

Power to the people!

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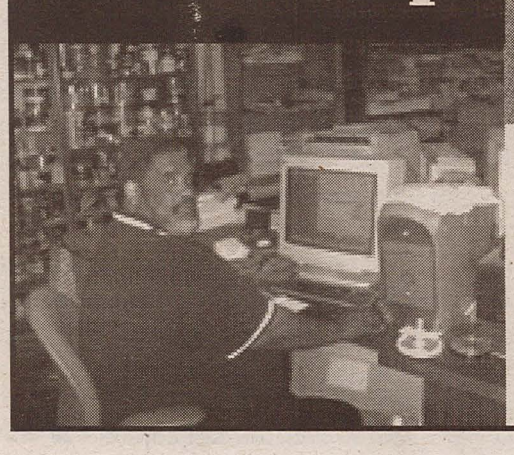

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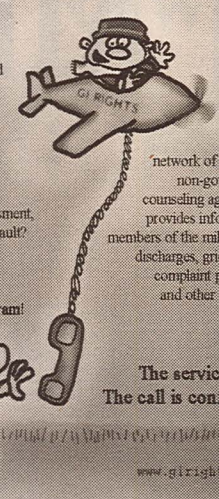

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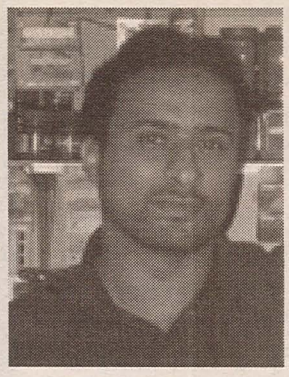

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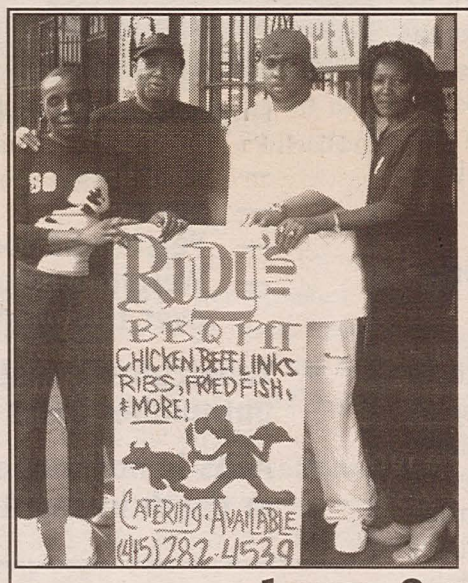

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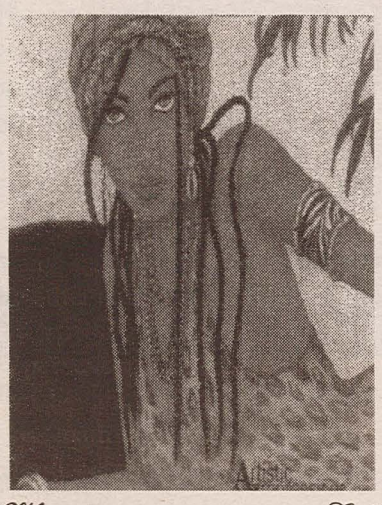

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Continued from page 9

week in violent clashes with the former soldiers. There appeared to be a new willingness to take the necessary risks involved in any serious disarmament plan, unfortunately, at the cost of several lives.

These acts, though commendable, should not overshadow the fact that for months, the UN allowed the former soldiers to terrorize much of the countryside around Port au Prince. Nor should it draw attention away from the return to an oppressive UN policy of working with an abusive police force to do the bidding of an unelected US-backed government.

Sadly, though perhaps not surprisingly, the events of the past week, particularly the direct attacks on demonstrators on March 29, indicate that the much hoped–for shift in UN policy has not occurred. In fact, the pendulum has swung sharply in the opposite direction, making it more important than ever that the international community put pressure on the United Nations and the Brazilian government to ensure the safety of unarmed civilians.

Although individual soldiers are ultimately responsible for their actions, there are larger forces at play that are intent on defending the legitimacy of an unelected and unpopular government at the expense of innocent lives. Troops on the ground are forced to comply with a mandate dictated by the United States, France, and Canada, and they will have to live with the memory of the lives lost as a result of their inaction and ongoing collaboration with a brutal police force.

All power to the people

Free Mumia • Free the Move 11 • Ya Basta! • Dyke Power! Fag Power! • Queers Bash Back • Free All Political Prisoners • Viva Zapata! • Animal Liberation

Don't Buy the HIV Lie • Homosex is Best • Pro-Choice! Pro-Queer! • AIDS is Over! • Stop Animal Testing • Sodomites Unite • Animal Liberation • Femme in the Sheets, Butch on the Streets • Don't Buy the HIV Lie • Queers Bash Back

This page is sponsored by Act UP

AIDS in Africa: New Plague or Old Illnesses of Poverty?

Racist HIV Myth Hides Ruthless U.S. Exploitation.

Unlike in the United States, AIDS in Africa is most frequently diagnosed based on four very imprecise clinical symptoms—diarrhea, fever, persistent cough, and weight loss greater than 10% over two months. *HIV antibody tests are not required to diagnose a case of African AIDS.* These four clinical symptoms are identical to the problems created by conditions of poverty that have troubled Africa and other developing areas of the world for centuries. In fact, symptoms of the so-called African AIDS epidemic are indistinguishable from the effects of malnutrition, unsanitary drinking and bathing water, and common curable conditions like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, and parasitic infections.

Rather than solve the problems of African poverty caused by centuries of ruthless Western exploitation, the U.S. government insists on broadcasting the doomsday notion that Africa is suddenly gripped by a deadly, spreading sexual plague. According to these American health authorities, salvation from sickness can only be found in profitable pills manufactured by the white West and exported to black Africa.

America's Racist HIV Myth

The idea that AIDS originated in Africa is a popular myth without any scientific or epidemiological evidence. News reports that blame AIDS on African green monkeys are based upon elaborate speculation about species-jumping viruses rather than reliable proof. Tall tales about the spread of AIDS are promoted through the most vulgar and racist sexual stereotypes about promiscuous African people.

Still, the numbers speak for themselves. According to the 1999 *WHO Global HIV/AIDS Report*, the total number of AIDS cases in Africa virtually equals the total number of cases in America even though Africa, with its 650 million citizens, has more than two times the population of the United States. Africa is often cited as a worst case example of what could happen in America despite figures demonstrating that 99.5% of Africans do not have AIDS, and among Africans who test HIV positive, 97% do not have AIDS.

The Truth About African AIDS:

- **HIV antibody tests are not required for an AIDS diagnosis in Africa.**
- **African AIDS is diagnosed by four very imprecise clinical symptoms:**
  - **— Diarrhea**
  - **— Fever**
  - **— Persistent cough**
  - **— Weight loss greater than 10% over two months**
- **Tuberculosis, malaria, and measles far outnumber cases of AIDS in Africa.**
- **AIDS is not the leading cause of illness or death in any African nation.**

While Africa is the frequent target of damaging AIDS media reports, the total number of cases on the continent is relatively small. For example, from 1981 through 1999 cumulative AIDS cases for South Africa, the area claimed hardest hit by HIV, were just 12,825.

Exporting Extermination: AIDS Pills Kill!

It is undeniable that experimental AIDS treatments like protease inhibitors and AZT are all highly toxic, dangerous products. Strokes, muscle wasting, anemia, physical deformities, dementia, birth defects, organ failure, and death are some of the "side effects" of these poisons. Thousands of gay men in the 1980s and 1990s died from AZT poisoning. Now the U.S. State Department has elevated AIDS to the level of a threat to national security in order to gain public support for exporting AZT to pregnant African women. Outspoken leaders like South African President Thabo Mbeki—hard pressed to explain why developing nations stricken with famine and civil chaos should spend what little money they have on toxic anti-HIV drugs while millions starve—are relentlessly attacked as unfit and crazy by racist Western media outlets.

We invite you to investigate the growing international controversy over the cause and treatment of AIDS for yourself. Clip and mail the coupon below for a free copy of the groundbreaking book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* by AIDS survivor Christine Maggiore.

Fight the AID$ Fraud!

ACT UP San Francisco is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—a militant, direct action organization committed to ending the AIDS fraud. General body meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 1884 Market Street and our medical marijuana dispensary is open 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Get involved. Join ACT UP! End the abuse of AIDS.

Clip and mail the coupon below to receive a free copy of the book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* or contact us for more information at www.actupsf.com!

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CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPS) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program which was written in 1966 by Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten-Point Program outlines goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working class communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Our Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is reactionary intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation). CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten-Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM, WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

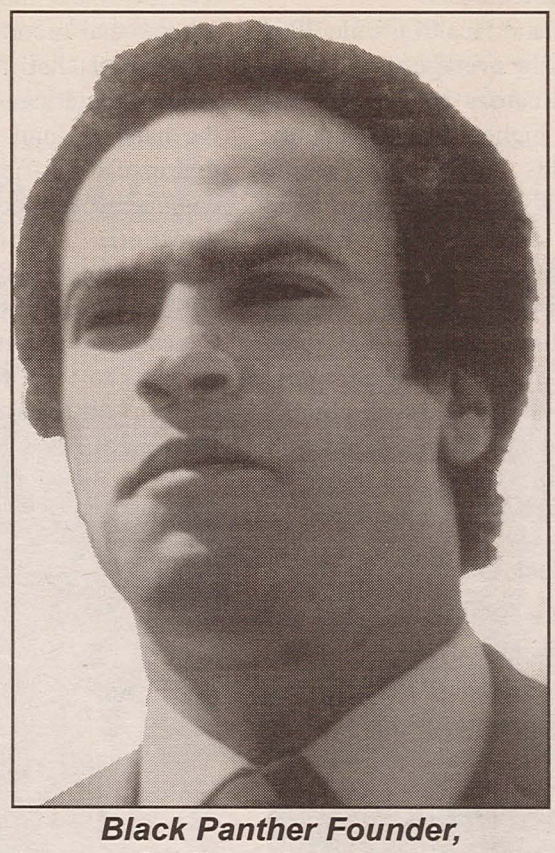
3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people on our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.



Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U. S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U. S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U. S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U. S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U. S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism. It is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

The James A. Watson Wellness Center

This page is sponsored by the James A. Watson Wellness Center

Dr. Geoffrey Watson (R), standing next to his father, Dr. James A. Watson (L), is one of the Board of Directors of the newly formed Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce. He is striving to bring economic equality to health care in our community.

African Americans in Oakland Die Younger

By Dr. H. Geoffrey Watson

The death rate for African Americans in Alameda County is more than 50% higher than the death rate for whites and more than 150% higher than the death rates for Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders. These statistics were obtained from the Alameda County Health States Report.

The Alameda County Department of Public Health examined 19 areas of health indicators of which African Americans failed to meet the objective level in 14 of the 19 categories. More specifically, of the 14 areas where African Americans fail to meet the objectives, it is the African American male that has experienced the worst, failing in 8 of the 14 areas.

African Americans do not meet health objectives and have a greater risk of disease and death in the following categories: 1) AIDS, 2) all cancer deaths, 3) breast cancer deaths, 4) coronary heart disease, 5) infant mortality deaths, 6) lung cancer deaths, 7) prostate cancer deaths, 8) unintentional injury deaths, 9) lack of childhood immunizations, 10) lack of first trimester prenatal care, 11) homicides, 12) low birth weights, 13) stroke deaths, 14) tuberculosis incidence.

If you are an African American male, your risk of death and disease is highest in the county compared to other races and families in the areas of AIDS incidence, all cancer deaths, coronary heart disease, unintentional injury deaths, homicides, stroke deaths and tuberculosis.

The Oakland Health profile 2004 indicates that the average annual death rate from all causes in Oakland was significantly higher than the county. African males had a significantly higher mortality from all causes compared to females and African Americans in Oakland had the highest rate of death from all causes among all races and ethnic groups, and more specifically, African American males and residents of east Oakland, parts of north Oakland and West Oakland have the highest rate for death from all causes in Oakland and the county.

Black Oakland

Zip Codes 94603, 94605, and 94606 are associated with the highest average of uninsured in Oakland and parallel the areas of the highest death rates.

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When you have your health,
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County in Cahoots with Caucasian Clinics! Negroes Nickled Again!

Mister David Kears, Director of Alameda County Health Care Services, took the specific direction of Clinic Administrator Ralph Silber to give 95% of Measure A millions to Caucasian Clinics (managed by himself), leaving only 5% of funds for the African American Based Bay Area Consortium for Quality Health Care Clinics.

The Alameda County voters voted to give tax money to Alameda County to fund Highland Hospital, and, to a lesser degree, Community Based Clinics who seek to serve the indigent.

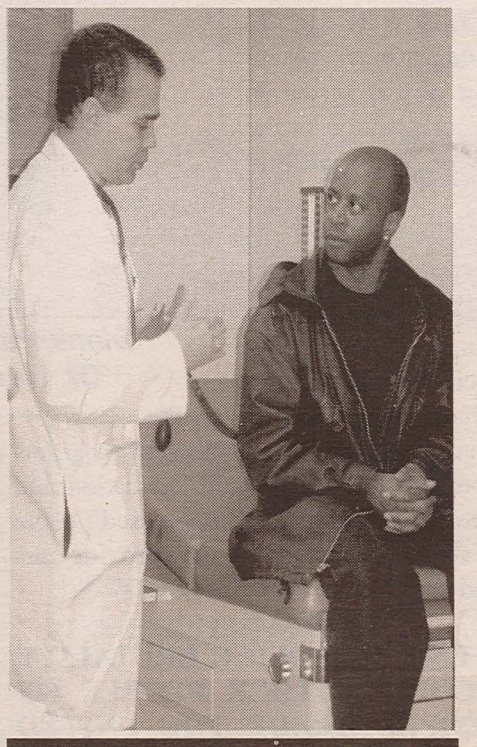
Approximately ninety (90) million dollars in tax revenue will be divided yearly from the passing of Measure A, with seventy (70) million going to Highland Hospital, five (5) million going to Community Clinics, three (3) million going to the Public Health Department, and another twelve (12) million going to undisclosed areas. Mister David Kears, Director of Alameda County Health Care Services, has ignored the fact that African Americans in Oakland (east, west, and north) are more ill and die at 2-3 times the rate of any other social group in the county. He has stated that the death rate of African Americans should not affect the need to fund or support clinics that care for African Americans. He has taken the specific and exclusive direction of Caucasian Administrator, Ralph Silber, to give 100% of Clinic funds to the Caucasian-run clinics, reducing (the amount) to 95% (after protest from African Americans). He refers the problem of Blacks to the Department of Public Health, which funds public service announcements, walk-in programs, yearly health fairs, tattoo removal programs, et cetera.

In other words, Mister Kears feels that Whites, Hispanics, Asians, (and others) deserve chemo therapy, HIV meds, insulin, blood pressure medications, heart medications, EKGs, and asthma therapy. Black people should watch TV and listen to the radio for public service announcements and walk to the once a year church health fair to be screened for their health care.

To make matters worse, Mister Ralph Silber and the Alameda Health Consortium used data on the poor health conditions of African Americans in east Oakland to obtain funds for the 98th and International Boulevard Ujama House (run by the African American Bay Area Consortium for Quality Health Care). When Silber's group was awarded the funds to be given to the Ujama Clinic, they misappropriated the funds and gave the money to one of their facilities in the Fruitvale Area. Patients who wanted (and needed) to be served at the Bay Area Consortium for Quality Care (Ujama House) intend to file suit. The issue of the distribution of Measure A funds will be discussed in public at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors meeting, Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at ten (10) AM.

The meeting is open to the public and welcomes input from the community.

The Board of Supervisors meets at 1221 Oak Street, on the fifth floor, in Oakland.



Watch the *Health Beat*
TV show Sundays,
Channel 26, 7:30 PM

The Bay Area Consortium for Quality Health Care Services clinics are located as follows:

The Save a Life Wellness Center
2580 San Pablo Ave
Oakland, CA 95612
(510) 444-9155

Berkeley Health Center
2908 Ellsworth Street
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 843-6194

UJAMA House
9925 International Blvd, Suite 3
Oakland, CA 94603
(510) 777-9395

James A. Watson Wellness Center
2940 Summit Street
Oakland, CA 94609
Tel.: (510) 444-9460
Fax: (510) 444-1960
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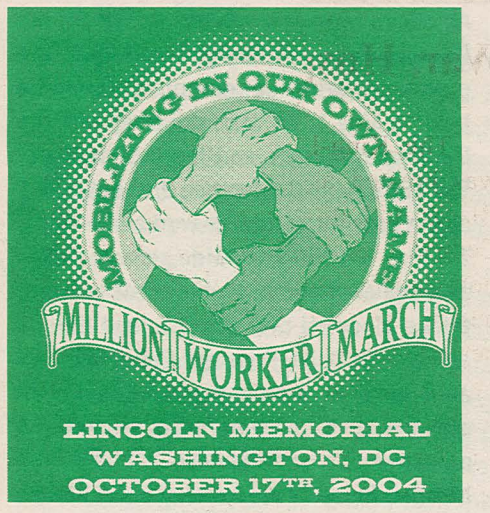

Detroit Fight Back

By Cheryl LaBash

On the weekend of May 14 -15 the Million Workers March national conference invites you to come to Detroit. If any city needs the fightback message of the Million Worker March to stop starving the cities to feed the Pentagon, it is surely Detroit.

And Detroit may be a city ready to hear it, too. In November 2004, Detroit voters overwhelmingly voted to dump a State-appointed school board retaking the right to control public education in this city. The grassroots campaign fought for five years, disrupting meetings, in courts and finally at the ballot box to demand and win equal voting rights for the Black community.

Newspaper columnists have floated hints of a state receivership to tear up contracts and force the cuts ....

In February, 1200 people crammed the city council auditorium demanding no cuts in 24-hour bus service – but only part of the crowd could get in. Hundreds of bus drivers and riders were left outside. A simple leaflet made and distributed by bus drivers organized the bus riders, many of them low wage workers, their families and friends. Although Detroit is well known as the Motor City, one third of Detroit workers can't afford a car.

The current challenge is not the old economic up and down cycle. From 1979 to 1985 the auto industry "restructuring" closed almost every auto plant in the city. The drive to produce more cars with fewer workers and higher profits outsourced jobs to areas where pay is lower and unions are weak or non-existent. Now, most jobs here are public sector jobs. The City of Detroit and the Detroit Public Schools are the largest employers. The "restructuring" crosshairs are firmly-focused on workers in both.

Over 1,000 City workers were laid off in 2004. A three–pronged attack is underway to cut wages 10% across the board, permanently eliminate thousands more jobs, and scale back medical benefits and pensions. The City administration is using dog and pony shows with consultants and economists to convince Detroiters that "right-sizing" the city workforce is essential. But city workers are showing no sign of buying the hype. The City workers' union contracts expire on June 30, just a couple of weeks away from the All-Star game scheduled for July 12 in downtown Detroit. If persuasion fails, newspaper columnists have floated hints of a state receivership to tear up contracts and force the cuts – and the cuts will be in services as well as jobs.

After winning back the right to elect its own school board in 2006, the parting shot of the state appointed board is to close nearly half of all the public schools – 34 of them at the end of this school year. Unionized custodian staff and groundskeepers, some with more than 25 years on the job, were replaced with private contractors. While there is a budget crisis for public schools, charter schools have plenty of money.

Recognizing that the severe budget problems can't be solved in the old ways, progressive Detroit City Council members are seeking support for "a conference of city officials, union, community and civil rights activists to develop an action program demanding the billions wasted on war and occupation be used instead to meet the needs of the people here at home, especially in our cities."

Since the October 17, 2004 Million Worker March in Washington, D.C. a local committee including Michigan Welfare Rights, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, elected union representatives and individual activists continues to organize here.

On February 5 a Speak Out Forum united activists fighting water service and other utility shut offs with the fight for immigrant rights and the common interests of working people across international borders. Although only 14% of workers in the U.S. are union members, said Maureen Taylor, state chair of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, the other 86% are potential members of her organization and together they will be strong.

Dave Sole, Pres. of UAW Local 2334 worked at the Fisher Body Fleetwood Auto Plant for 17 years until it was closed down. Now facing the same restructuring as a City of Detroit worker, he said, "Detroit isn't poor. It pays $300 million interest payment on bonds. Detroit's share of the Iraq war budget last year was $429 million. Police brutality lawsuits pay out more per capita in Detroit than Los Angeles." Preparing for the new struggles unfolding, the panel ended with Charles Brown recalling the victories of working people in the state of Michigan – from the sitdown strikes that organized the auto industry during the 1930s to the reclaiming of Detroit's right to elect its School Board in the last election.

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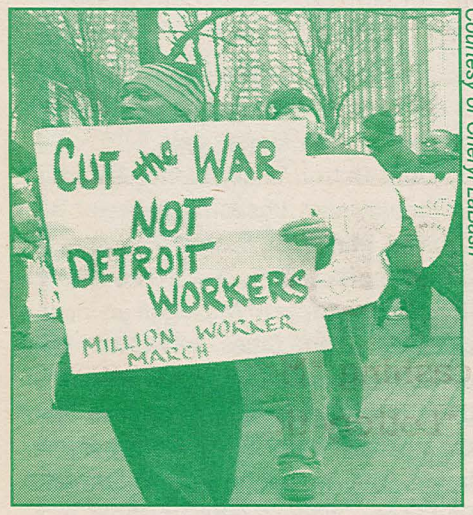


Courtesy of Cheryl LaBash

Detroit Workers demanding living-wage jobs.

Photo by MWMM

New York, April 30, (left to right) Larry Holmes, co-director of International Action Center, Leilani Dowell, member of International Action Center, Chris Silvera, Secretary/Treasurer of IBT local 808 and Chairman of Teamsters National Black Caucus, an unidentified IAC volunteer, Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local 10, co-chair of the MWMM, Brenda Stokeley (AFSCME) president of District Council, local 1707, and Eastern Regional coordinator of MWMM, Monica Moorehead, managing editor of Workers World.

Labor On the Move

By MWMM Staff

The Million Worker March Movement (MWMM) emerged from a historic call for rank and file unity in the labor movement, organized and unorganized, to mobilize in our own name and to challenge the passivity of the AFL-CIO leadership in the face of unrestrained class warfare waged by the ruling class. This call was made by ILWU Local 10, a predominantly African-American local and the local of the legendary 20th century labor leader Harry Bridges.

In the past few months the MWM Movement in the Bay Area has been involved with several local struggles, including the hotel worker struggle of Unite HERE local 2, the Oakland Unified School District crisis, and the issue of Wal-Mart coming into the East Oakland Community.

During the month of March the MWM Movement in conjunction with several labor and community organizations have organized town hall meetings concerning the crisis in public education in Oakland and Wal-Mart.

Oakland Schools

The Oakland coalition to defend and improve public education organized a town hall meeting on March 8th of nearly 400 teachers, students, parents, and labor organizations demanding to stop the dismantling of public education. Clarence Thomas (International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10 and an Executive Board member and co-Chair of the MWM Movement) chaired the meeting. Oakland Education Association President Ben Visnick, Rev Zaida Flaver, and Morris Tatum of (AFSCME) American Federation of State, County, Municipal, Employees, Local 257 were amongst the speakers.

On March 15th more than 450 teachers, students, parents and community members rallied in downtown Oakland at the state office building, sponsored by a coalition to Defend and Improve Public Education.

One of the demands at MWM on October 17th was to Stop the Dismantling of Public Education to fully fund public education.

Wal-Mart

On March 23rd at the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU Local 6 in Oakland), **Just Cause** of Oakland East Bay Community Law Center, the MWM Movement, and other grass roots organizations organized and sponsored a town hall meeting regarding Wal-Mart.

There is a Wal-Mart development at the metro port in East Oakland. Panelists representing labor, public education, and small business spoke about economic devastation Wal-Mart causes communities. MWM co-Chair spoke about why Wal-Mart is bad for labor unions and how our tax dollars subsidize Wal-Mart. This occurs by Wal-Mart counseling its employed to apply

Continued on next page

Photo courtesy of MWMM

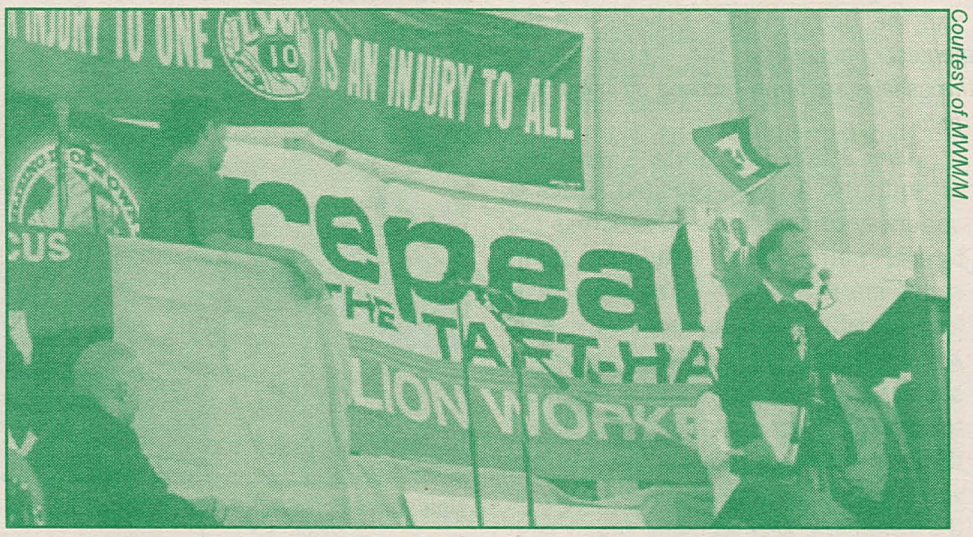
Clarence Thomas (San Francisco ILWU Local 10), Leslie Ruiz (Just Cause community organizer), Karega Hart (SEIU Education Director of 790) and former Oakland Councilman, and activist Wilson Riles, Jr.

Million Worker March Movement

A National Call to Reclaim May Day!!

By: Larry Shoup, *National Writer's Union (UAW 1981) and Million Worker March Committee*

The corporate ruling class propaganda machine in this country works 24/7 to try to misinform and misdirect the people and keep their social and political consciousness low. A prime example of this is the way that a great event in American history, the story of the general strike for the 8-hour day, a struggle that gave us the international worker's holiday of May Day, has been hidden and twisted to try to keep workers under ruling class control. The Million Worker March Movement (MWMM) has made one of its priorities to reclaim the history and spirit of working class independence and direct struggle for social justice that May Day represents. Mobilizations and marches May 1 of this year are the kick-off for a multi-year struggle to both promote our demands and reclaim May Day as a day of class independence and international labor solidarity. Below is a brief history of the origins and early development of May Day and the MWMM's Resolution to Reclaim May Day.



Courtesy of MWMM

Ralph Schoenman (right), chair of communication for MWMM, speaks in Washington, D.C., at the March on October 17, 2004, with a banner reading "repeal the Taft-Hartley" behind him.

Origins and Early Development of International May Day

May Day has its origins in the struggle for the 8-hour day in the United States. Workers and their unions wanted a way to enforce their desire to shorten the working day with no loss in pay. In 1884, a coalition of labor unions passed a resolution that 8 hours shall constitute a legal day's work from and after May 1, 1886. Part of the resolution was that this demand should be enforced by a nationwide general strike on that date in support of all workers not yet on the 8-hour schedule.

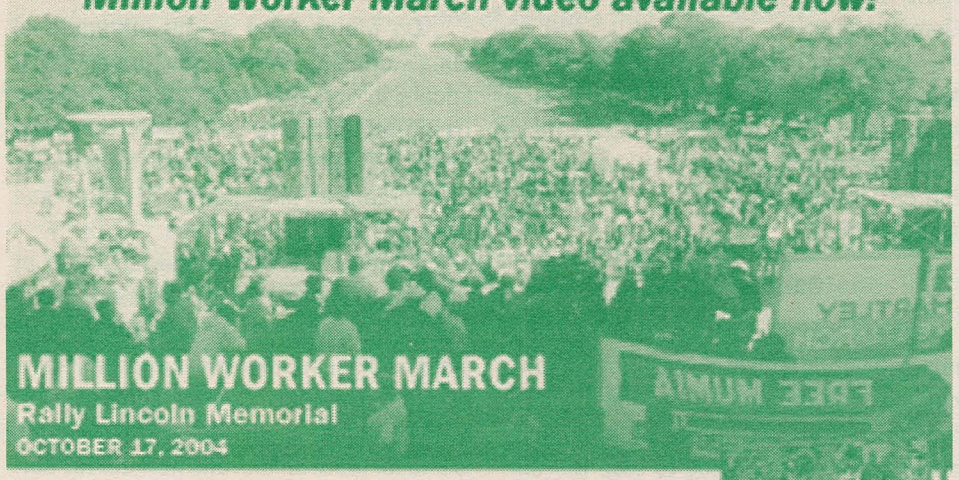
The demonstrations and strikes for the 8-hour day on May 1, 1886 involved about 350,000 workers nationwide. Chicago was one center of strike activity and the march there was reportedly 90,000 strong, about one-half of them strikers. On May 3, strikers at the McCormick Harvester Works were fired on by 200 police. Six workers were killed and many wounded. Angry workers and their leaders called a protest at Haymarket Square in Chicago for the next day, May 4. Encouraged by the Chicago bosses, 180 Chicago police attacked that rally, and while beginning to club people, their ranks were hit by a bomb thrown by an unknown person. The bomb killed eight police and wounded about 60. Police then shot at the crowd, killing several workers and injuring over 200. A reign of state terror quickly followed, with raids on union headquarters, arrests, beatings and torture of workers and union leaders. The Illinois state government seized eight of the union leaders who spoke at the Haymarket rally, framing them for murder. Who threw the bomb was never determined, nor was anyone ever prosecuted for the murders of peaceful workers by police. Four of the union leaders were tried, convicted and executed by hanging, one committed suicide in jail, and three were sentenced to life in prison. In November of 1887, the largest funeral procession in Chicago history – about 500,000 people – took place, escorting the five "Haymarket Martyrs" to their graves.

Because of the grossly unfair frame-up trial and execution of innocent unionists fighting for the 8-hour day, the case of the Haymarket Martyrs became an international cause among workers in the U.S. and worldwide. During the trial, workers in England, Holland, Russia, Italy, France and Spain rallied and donated money in solidarity with the Haymarket defendants. The injustice of the case placed the U.S. working class at center stage of the world workers' movement. Then on July 14, 1889, less than two years after the murder of the Haymarket union leaders by the state, France was holding its 100th anniversary celebration of the beginning of the great French Revolution. The Labor and Socialist International Congress had their convention in Paris at that time and they were planning future international actions to secure the rights of working people. An American worker's representative at the Bastille Day centenary urged that the planned worldwide demonstrations be held on May 1, 1890 in solidarity with the Haymarket Martyrs and the U.S. struggle. The 1889 Paris Conference then set May 1 as the date for worldwide workers' actions. The May 1, 1890 worldwide general strikes and demonstrations were a great success, taking place all over the U.S. and Europe and also in Chile, Peru and Cuba. This created such enthusiasm that what had been planned as a one-time event became an annual one, a world holiday by and for the independence of the working class and its demands, including international solidarity and universal peace.

In 1894, immediately after 12,000 federal troops were used to violently crush the great Pullman Strike, a U.S. "Labor Day" in September was passed by Congress and President Cleveland. This represented an attempt to undercut international labor solidarity and isolate U.S. workers from their brothers and sisters worldwide. In addition, it was and is an attempt to hide and erase the true history of May Day and substitute a day without any historical significance or importance to working people.

May Day remains revolutionary today in the sense that it stresses direct action, especially the general strike, as the way to achieve victories for working people. This idea is reinforced by brutal police attacks on the people's movements and the state's murder of the Haymarket Martyrs, which show the frequent repressive nature of governments in the service of the capitalist class. May Day is a day to organize and fight for class independence around issues vital to today's workers; it represents the autonomous, independent, direct action struggle of working people for our just demands. It is also an illustration of the power of the working class in the fight for world peace, solidarity, and a society based on justice and equality for all. As the great American labor leader Eugene V. Debs put it in 1907: "May Day belongs to the working class and is dedicated to the revolution."

Million Worker March video available now!



Order Your Million Worker March Commemorative DVD/Video

The Million Worker March was a very important and historical event.

If you were there you'll want to recapture the day. If you weren't there you will gain insight into why so many others were determined to be there.

On October 17, 2004, ILWU Local 10's call for a Million Worker March brought together activists from the movements for labor, civil rights, anti-war, immigrants' rights and to free political prisoners to speak in their own name.

"We must keep marching . . . before the elections and after the elections . . . until we win justice for the homeless, the unemployed and we bring the troops home now."
– Danny Glover, actor

www.millionworkermarch.org
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Labor on the Move

Continued from previous page

for food stamps, Section 8 housing, and medical assistance for health care. Brother Clarence Thomas led a crowd of more than 150 people in a chant "Wal-Mart is a vampire." The purpose of the Town Hall meeting was to build community labor solidarity against the big box super exploitative store that doesn't pay a living wage, is anti-union, and uses sweat shops in Asia to produce its products sold to American consumers.

Wal-Mart is the largest American corporation. Its earnings represent 2% of the nation's gross domestic product. Wal-Mart is global and is severely threatening world communities and small business. There are thousands of lawsuits currently pending against Wal-Mart.

Detroit Fight Back

Continued from previous page

In a leaflet thanking bus drivers and bus riders for turning back the transportation cuts, Detroit Million Workers March said, "Detroit has money – for downtown development, stadiums, roads for businesses and high paid administrators. The interest payments to banks and bondholders are more than the whole Detroit deficit. That is where the real money is. With the Bush tax breaks for the rich, local tax breaks for corporations and developers, the wealth is being shifted around so the cost falls on poor and working people."

And Detroit is not alone. According to Employment Research Associates in Lansing, Michigan, Detroit's share of the cost of the Iraq war is now over $600 million and the State of Michigan an incredible $7 billion. Cities and towns from coast to coast are splitting pennies when there is enough money to provide all of the necessities of life for every human being. But in the words of Frederick Douglass, "without struggle there is no progress." The final chapter has not been written.

Special Insert Sponsored by Million Workers March/Movement

Workers take lead in Venezuelan Revolution

By Betsey Piette

Note: *The author participated in the 3rd World Gathering in Solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution April 13-17 and in the conference workshop in the state of Carabobo that examined the experiences of workers with co-management of their workplace.*

Everywhere in Venezuela today workers are forging ahead with new formations of workers organization: taking over factories here, experimenting with comanagement there. Workers are challenging the old class relationships and coming to a collective realization of their historic role in the struggle for socialism.

there are no guarantees that they will succeed — the problems faced by the Venezuelan working class are massive — 80% live in poverty, millions are in need of better housing, education, higher wages and better benefits. But as the worker of Venezuela begin to flex their muscle and to exercise their rights under the Bolivarian Constitution there appears to be a growing recognition that their collective power should stop at nothing short of state control. It is a struggle that holds out great hope for the world's working class.

Throughout the process of the Bolivarian revolution, the role of the workers has gone through a dramatic transformation. In April 2002, workers were participants in the massive demonstrations which turned back the coup d'etat against Hugo Chavez. Progressives within organized labor played a key role in defeating employers' lock-outs during the pro-business "general strikes" of December 2002 and January 2003. But today the momentum of the class struggle is propelling workers into a leadership role.

To understand just how dramatic the change taking place in Venezuela's working class today really is, we need to take a brief look at the history of organized labor in this oil rich Latin American country. For over thirty years prior to the U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Chavez in April of 2002, the workers' struggle against neo-liberalism was held in check by the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers (CTV), the country's main labor council.

The National Union of Workers (UNT) has been at the forefront as workers exercise their rights under Venezuela's Constitution to form parallel unions to replace the old corporate unionism. This constitution (English version is available at www.vheadline.com) contains many provisions which guarantee workers' rights.

The UNT has pushed for regular, open elections and supports workers co-management or self-management in workplaces. With an increased say over what gets raised at the bargaining table, the new unions have excited workers about their prospects for improving working conditions, wages and benefits.

The massive popular demonstrations that turned back the coup in 2002 opened the floodgates for revolutionary change and swept the working class of Venezuela onto center stage. They face many problems. The forces of counter revolution, while temporarily set back, never-the-less remain poised in the wings to re-emerge. The workers, however, are making it clear that they will not be satisfied with a simple change in plant management here or workers' control over that plant there. They want workers' control over the state — they want socialism. They know that in the struggle ahead they have nothing to lose but their chains!

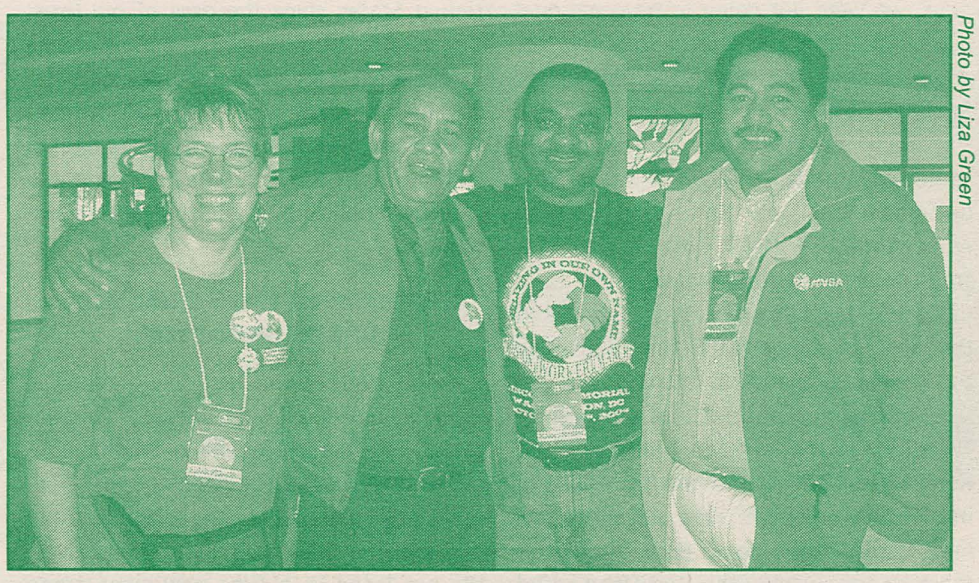

Photo by Liza Green

(Left to right) Betsey Piette, Philadelphia International Action Center, Anastacio Rodriguez Aquilera, Venezuelan lawyer specializing in new co-management law, Frantz Medes, Vice President, USWA Local 8751, and Luis Rosas, leader of rank-and-file Workers Committee at PDVSA, which has been running the state-owned oil company since 2002, when 18,000 managers tried to lock out the workers in a failed attempt to overthrow the Bolivarian government.

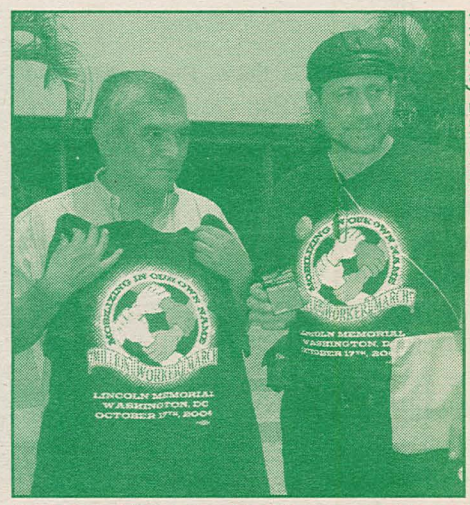

Photo by Liza Green

Ruben Linares (left), a national director of the UNT and President of the Venezuela's National Transportation Workers' Union, interviewed by Steve Gillis, President of the Boston School Bus Union and MWMM representative. Linares told a moving story of how the Caracas taxi and bus drivers refused to participate in the April 11, 2002 "strike" called by the CTV and the Venezuelan Chamber of Commerce in an attempt at a coup d'etat against the Bolivarian government. Instead, the drivers shuttled workers from the poor neighborhoods to the city center, where a mass uprising of workers, supported by rank-and-file soldiers, led to the restoration of the democratically-elected president Hugo Chavez, on April 13, 2003.

Photo by B. Piette

Gerardo Cajamarca, leader of the Colombian SINAL TRAINAL union, emphasizes solidarity with the Venezuelan revolution as he raises concepts of workers' rights written into the new Venezuelan Bolivarian Constitution.

Clarence Thomas, co-Chair MWMM, Addresses International Workers Conference in Madrid, Spain

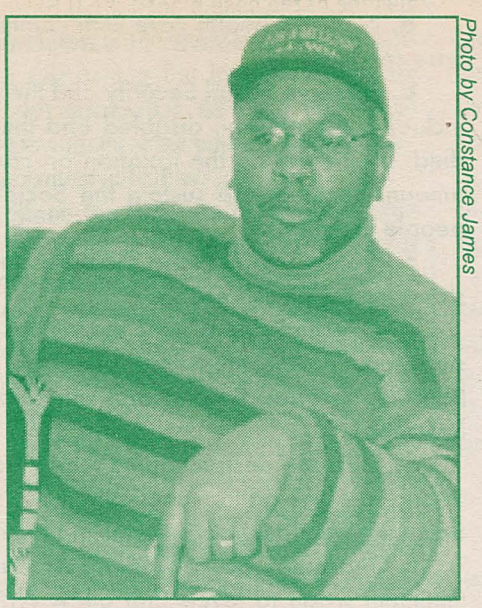

Photo by Constance James

Clarence Thomas

The World Conference of the International Liaison Committee of Workers and Peoples (ILC) was held in Madrid on March 18 - 20, 2005, with the participation of 350 delegated unionists and activists from 54 countries. Eighteen delegates from the United States - including representatives from the Million Worker March movement, US Labor Against the War, Pride at Work, and unions from across the country - were present in Madrid.

ILC open world conferences are held every two to three years in different countries to help organize the fightback against the global corporate agenda of the multinational corporations, the international institutions of finance capital (IMF, WTO and World Bank) and all the governments in their service.

This year in Madrid, the delegates targeted the privatization, "free trade" and military onslaught against workers and oppressed peoples by the U.S. government and its proxies. The delegates also reaffirmed the vital need for working people to organize in their own name — in their own independent unions, organizations and mobilizations to defeat the attacks by Global Capitalism.

For a full account of the Madrid ILC and the campaigns that were launched by its participants, please visit www.owcinfo.org

March 2005

"I'd like to express solidarity and greetings to you all.

For those of you who might have thought you would be hearing from the Supreme Court Justice of the United States, who shares my name, I hope you will not be disappointed.

Let me first of all give you a little background about the Union that I am a member of. The International Longshore & Warehouse Union represents some 29 ports on the west coast. All of the shipping that goes to the west coast, my union loads and unloads those ships. It is also the home of the 20th century legendary trade unionist Harry Bridges.

Harry Bridges was an Australian immigrant, and he helped to form the Union in 1934 with the great strike on the West Coast. He was hounded by the FBI, the CIA, for his position with regards to the class struggle; and his knowledge of racism and discrimination are tools of the bosses.

It is no accident that my local, ILWU local 10 is the most diverse Local on the West Coast. Let me be more specific. During the Great Strike of 1934 when Black workers were being used as scabs because at that time the social consciousness of the union leadership had not seen fit to bring in Black workers, Harry Bridges went to Black congregations in Oakland and San Francisco, and he appealed to Black workers to join the picket line, promising that Black workers would be allowed to become members of the ILWU. But more importantly, Harry Bridges understood that white workers of the United States could not progress without the movement and progression of Black workers.

ILWU Has an Anti-imperialistic History

"The ILWU has taken positions against the war for several decades. In 1950 we took position against the Korean War. 1965, we were the first union in United States to take position against the Vietnam War. In 1991 we opposed Desert Storm. We were one of the first unions to oppose the war and occupation of Iraq.

On March 19, in San Francisco, my local, ILWU Local 10, will be withholding its labor in observance of the second anniversary of the imperialist war against the Iraqi people. There will be no cargo loaded in the port of San Francisco. There will be no cargo loaded in the Port of Oakland — the fourth largest container port in the world! When you take positions like that, you are showing the workers of the world what is necessary in order to end this war. We have to take action at the point of production, and that's what you need to go back to let your comrades know what's happening in the United States of America, that there are workers who are willing to stand up and take a position.

Why Million Workers March

"The ILWU Local 10 initiated the Million Workers March. Many of you heard about that from Lybon Mabasa, one of the

Continued on next page

MWMM/Spain

Continued from previous page

speakers who was there. There were also members of the Dora Chiba Rail Workers and a trade unionist from Haiti at the march. The purpose of that march was to mobilize workers in our own name, independent of the Republican and Democratic parties, because those two Parties are the parties of the bosses that are engaged in concert in waging class warfare on American workers. The Million Worker March was lead by African American Trade Unionists. It's very important for you to understand that because we are the most oppressed sector of the working class in America. The officialdom of the AFL-CIO did not want us to have a march. The Democratic Party conspired with the officialdom of the AFL-CIO to do everything they could to undermine the Million Worker March. Why? Because we were mobilizing in our own name against the war in Iraq. Because we were mobilizing in our own name against the attacks on our civil liberties and the U.S. Patriot Act. Because we were mobilizing in our own name against that bloated military budget and the Military Industrial Complex. It was because we mobilized in our own name two weeks before the national election, and they did not want the world to see that there was workers, organized and unorganized, who wanted to speak out and wanted to say that no matter what the outcome of the elections, we were not going to have national health care that the war in Iraq was not going to stop, that the privatizing of our Social Security was not going to stop.

Many progressives in the United States of America thought it was a wise decision to back John Kerry. As mentioned earlier today, in 2003, I was a part of a trade union delegation that went to Iraq to meet with trade unionists to see first hand the rape and pillage of U.S. imperialism on the Iraqi people, and how the U.S. dismantled that great nations' infrastructure. Then how in the hell can I support John Kerry when I put my life into the hands of Iraqi trade unionists that did not know me? Could I then come back and insult them by supporting John Kerry who voted for the war? Hell no! What you need to understand is that there are a group of trade unionists in the United States of America who are not afraid. There are a group of trade unionists who want you to know that we are willing to put something on the line for you. Workers that you don't even know today are taking off, and if you don't know anything about Longshoremen, you would know that giving up an overtime day with pay means a lot.

But we understand the importance; we are not just workers, we are workers with a conscience.

The Million Worker March represented something that has not taken place in the United States since the days of the Great Depression. We mobilized in our own name independent of the parties of the ruling class.

As you can see I am an African American. Black folk did not get the right to vote by voting. Black people got the right to vote by mobilizing, organizing in our own name.

It is the Workers Who Fight the Wars... Who Die Unnecessarily

The trade union leadership today is made up individuals who are class collaborators. They are lieutenants of labor in concert with the captains of industry. These are individuals who don't care about the rank and file. They only care about themselves. We are living in a time now when trade unions need to stand up and take a position on matters concerning foreign policy. Workers who are involved in assisting the military industrial complex must have a conscience. The time is over for us who are in the belly of the beast to come up with excuses as to why we can't carry our fair share of the load.

It was in 1984 when Black longshoremen, along with White longshoremen and others, boycotted a ship in from South Africa. When Nelson Mandela came to the Bay Area in 1989, he acknowledged the ILWU for its work. Workers have to take a position. Workers have to make sacrifices. It is the workers who generate the wealth. It is the workers who fight the wars. It is the workers who die unnecessarily.

George Bush's record speaks for itself, but I want to make one thing very clear to you. The Democratic Party has been voting in support of the Republicans' legislation against the working class. They have betrayed the working class. How in the hell can you give billions of dollars to the Democratic Party and have nothing to show for it? How can you call yourself a Progressive and vote for John Kerry? No! No! There is another voice in the labor movement in the United States, and I say to you there may be a time when we (the ILWU) will need your support, when we go into our 2008 contract negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Association. George Bush wants to break the ILWU. Do you think he wants an organization that shuts down the port in opposition to the war? We may need you to stand with us in 2008, if we have to go out on strike and they bring out the military on the docks. We want longshoremen in Britain; longshoremen in Australia; we want longshoremen in Japan, not to touch that Cargo.

We need to show the bosses our power. And I leave you with this: An injury to one is an injury to all! An injury to one is injury to all! An injury to one is an injury to all!

MILLION WORKERS MARCH MOVEMENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1884 the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions passed a Resolution in Chicago stating that eight hours would constitute a legal day's work from and after May 1, 1886 ;

WHEREAS, this Resolution of 1886 summoned workers in the United States to carry out a General Strike to achieve the goal since all legislative methods had failed ;

WHEREAS, the Million Worker March Movement hereby calls upon all trade unions and working people, both organized and unorganized, to Reclaim May Day, to acknowledge May Day as a central and pivotal part of our history, and to recapture the spirit of struggle that it represents;

WHEREAS, the government, the corporations that dominate it and the officialdom of labor in the past have sought to conceal and deny the true history of May Day, seeking to erase the memory of May Day and to suppress the class struggle that it embodies ;

WHEREAS, they have replaced May Day with "Labor Day," a date devoid of any historical or class struggle significance ;

WHEREAS, by seeking to eradicate the history of May Day, the powers that be have sought to break our ties to our own militant past and to separate labor from its historic role in the ongoing fight for social justice ;

WHEREAS, May Day is celebrated by labor and working people the world over with the exception of the United States whose working class gave birth to May Day ;

WHEREAS, each May Day workers in every country joined together to unite against the growing global corporate onslaught which pits workers against each other, a global attack that has intensified ;

WHEREAS, the suppression of May Day was intended to isolate American workers and prevent an international workers' response to the ever increasing global nature of the attack upon us;

WHEREAS, by Reclaiming May Day at a time when privatization, outsourcing, and the mad race to the bottom pit workers against each other everywhere, making ever more critical the need for international unity in struggle among working people;

WHEREAS, by Reclaiming May Day as an International Day of struggle and unity we take a decisive step in reversing the attempts to isolate U.S. workers and to build international labor solidarity; and

WHEREAS, in Reclaiming May Day we pay homage to the historic mobilization of 1886 that won us the 8-hour day and prepared us for the battles ahead ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Labor Movement in America, in the interests of working people the world over, Reclaims May Day as an International Workers' Day of Struggle and applies to the present the lessons of the historic mobilization of 1886 that galvanized the workers of the world

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, in Reclaiming May Day, the Labor Movement in America will launch a united struggle to reverse the brazen attacks upon the gains of the past and advance the interests of working people, with specific campaigns that will become the driving force behind Reclaiming May Day today:

a. National health care with community control over delivery of health care services;

b. Preserve Social Security and the protections it provides to all workers, including the elderly, disabled and the beneficiaries of workers who have died, by increasing the taxation on corporations and the rich by the small amount necessary to sustain the Social Security safety net for all working people in America;

c. Protect, restore and increase pensions to guarantee a decent living standard for all retirees;

d. Overturn and restore the vicious cuts in social services at the federal, state, county and municipal levels that are gutting health care, education, housing, libraries, food stamps and vital public programs that benefit working people;

e. Stop the destruction of public education for our children and adults throughout the nation and demand a crash program to fund the rapidly decaying public school systems in the cities of America;

f. Guarantee every working American a living wage and increase the minimum wage to levels that allow all workers to provide decent housing, adequate food, basic transportation, and proper education for themselves and their dependents;

g. Protect the right to strike and end the use of scabs ("replacement workers") as a strike-breaking tool sanctioned by corporate-controlled government;

h. End the forced march to part time and precarious work and guarantee full time work with decent wages that rise with the cost of living, provide secure pensions, health care and full wage retirement for working people;

i. Fight for a crash program to rebuild our cities and provide decent, spacious and affordable housing for all;

j. Slash the military budget and the subordination of government to the warfare state that menaces working people globally and sends our youth abroad to defend corporate exploitation and profits;

k. Stop the unbridled attack on public sector workers and the attempts to undermine and destroy our public sector unions, notably, SEIU and AFSCME;

l. End the privatization of public services at federal, state, county, and municipal levels that replace government services with price gouging, profiteering, and union busting;

m. Bring to bear the full force of a united labor movement to defend all workers under attack and stop the corporate use of salami tactics that seek to isolate and pick off one sector of labor at a time, notably hotel workers, airline workers, and grocery workers.

Special Insert Sponsored by Million Workers March/Movement